



JOHN A. SEAVERNS

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H. H. Bingham & Sons.

HORSES AND HORSEMASTERSHIP.

BY
CAPTAIN THOS. A. POLSON,
THE CITY OF LONDON YEOMANRY (ROUGH-RIDERS).

WITH AN INTRODUCTORY NOTE BY
LIEUT.-GENERAL R. S. S. BADEN-POWELL, C.B.
(LATE INSPECTOR OF CAVALRY).

"The wide gulf that parts us may yet be no wider
Than that which parts you from some being more blest ;
And there may be more links 'twixt the horse and his rider
Than ever your shallow philosophy guess'd."
A. Lindsay Gordon.

PRINTED BY W. & G. BAIRD, LIMITED, BELFAST.
AND PUBLISHED AT OCEAN BUILDINGS, BELFAST.

Price 1/= Net.

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The Cavalryman's chief weapon is his horse: it must be the most used and the best kept of all his arms.

All your training, all your excelling in marksmanship and horsemanship, scouting or drill, is of little use on service if you have not also mastered, both in theory and practice, the most important step of all—horse-mastership.

In this direction a study of Captain Polson's clear and comprehensive handbook will be a great help.

Rev. D. A. C. P. P.
Lieut. General
(Ct. Inspector of Cavalry.)

21/5/09.

Richmond Castle,
Yorkshire.

PREFACE.

Although primarily intended for the use of the members of that branch of His Majesty's Mounted Forces to which I have the honour to belong, this little volume will be found to contain much to interest every person who desires to claim more than a passing acquaintance with the horse and his management.

The subject has been dealt with at considerable length by far abler pens than mine; but, so far as I am aware, no author has hitherto attempted to produce a work, which, while disclaiming any pretension to being complete, presents in a condensed form sufficient information for all practical purposes.

If my efforts have no better result than to stimulate a desire for further experience, both theoretical and practical, they will not have proved in vain, and I shall be well satisfied.

I desire to express my deep gratitude to Lieut.-General R. S. S. Baden-Powell, C.B., for his courtesy in perusing the proofs of my work, and for setting upon it the hall-mark of his generous approval, a distinction of which I am very proud.

T.A.P.

BELFAST,
May, 1900.

INTRODUCTION.

Horsemen (and by the term I mean men who not only excel in horsemanship, but who thoroughly understand horses) are like poets, born and not made: but, for all that, the average man who tries assiduously to become efficient in riding, and to know something of horses, can generally succeed.

It is really astonishing how very few men, and especially Londoners bred and born, are well acquainted with the points of the animal. They know, of course, the difference between a cart nag and a "cabber," simply because it is more or less one of bulk or size: but when it becomes a question of, say, the difference between a saddle horse and a carriage horse, they are absolutely at fault; indeed, among my own acquaintances (and I know a great many men who keep horses), I could count on my fingers those who possess what is called "a good eye for a horse."

Again, there are others who, though they may know a good looking from a bad looking horse, have not the slightest idea of what I may call anatomical faults, or those defects which are known to the horse-dealing fraternity by the significant term "ifs." Unfortunately, alas! there are very few horses without an "if" of some kind or other.

But how is this knowledge to be acquired? I believe the best way to proceed is, first, to familiarise the eye by studying photographs of typical horses: then, by means of critical observation, compare the horses you meet in your daily walks with the impression the pictures have created on your mind: pull them to pieces, in fact—not literally, of course;

and if you can get a friend who knows more than you do about the subject, get him to assist you whenever opportunity arises.

A visit to Tattersall's, or any of the other Repositories, is also of educational value. Watch the horses as they come up under the hammer; note how they move; observe the different contour, the different behaviour of each horse; and, in short, convince yourself that it is quite as difficult to find two horses identically alike as it is to find two men. When you have got as far as this, your kindergarten days as a horseman have but begun.

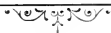
Next get to know something about the anatomy of the animal. Everyone knows the head from the tail; but a horse also possesses withers, shoulders, quarters, hocks, knees, elbows, forearms, canons, fetlocks, pasterns, hoofs, etc., and until you get to know the proper formation of these several parts you cannot spot those malformations, or blemishes, which may, or may not, be serious, but which, as indicated above, so few horses are absolutely without.

By studying the accompanying illustration a generally correct knowledge of the location of the various parts may be gained, as well as of the seats of several of the "ifs" above referred to; while a careful and intelligent perusal of the chapters which follow will enable the novice to lay in a sufficient store of information, which, together with such practical experience as he may be able to obtain, will entitle him to claim to be regarded as one possessing at least a fair acquaintance with the subject of "Horses and Horsemastership."

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HORSES AND HORSEMASTERSHIP.



CHAPTER I.

CONFORMATION.

A well-known authority whose work on the Horse has afforded me many pleasant and profitable hours since I first made its acquaintance, now many years ago, states: "A good horse is an animal with many good, few indifferent, and no bad points," a dictum with which, after much experience, I respectfully agree, with this reservation: I have come across many excellent horses which were anything but *good looking*. I shall be going as far I feel at liberty to in an elementary treatise such as this if I endeavour to describe the outward appearance of a good troop or saddle horse, and at the same time touch upon some points which detract from the merits of such an one.

With regard to height: to my mind the most useful size is 15 hands 2 inches (it seems superfluous to mention that a "hand" is four inches). A horse of this measurement does not look out of place whether his rider be tall or short; but there is a certain amount of the incongruous about a six-foot man on a 14-hands pony, or a five-footer on a 16-hands horse. I am also of

opinion that, generally speaking, the 15.2 horse, take him all round, presents fewer glaring faults than does his taller or shorter brothers. By this I mean that if you take at random a score of horses of the height I advocate, and a score of 15 hands or of 16 hands, you will find among your 15.2 horses more animals suitable for troopers than you will among either of the other classes *pro rata*.

The next thing to be sought is intelligence. Look at his head: it should be comparatively small and lean, yet with great width between the eyes, which should be large and docile looking, and yet conveying an impression of alertness. The mouth should be small, and the lips thin and well set. The nostrils should be large and expansive, free from coarse hairs, and, like the lips, thin. The ears should be in proportion to the head, neither too small nor too large; they should be carried rather close together than otherwise, should point forward, and, in conjunction with the eyes, do much to indicate the horse's character. The head should be well carried on a moderately long and tapering neck, which, rising gradually from the withers, ends in a graceful curve at the occipital bone. This curve or "crest" should not be, however, too pronounced, or the proper poise of the head will be destroyed, and the animal more or less forced to carry his muzzle inwards towards his chest,

instead of somewhat the other way. The throat should be clearly defined. The withers (practically the nape of the neck) lie between and above the shoulders; they should be high and muscular. The shoulders should be long and sloping. The chest broad, as distinct from round, and of great depth.

The radius (the bone of the leg above the knee) should be longer than the canon or great metacarpal (the bone between the knee and the pastern), which should be flat and broad. The tendons in rear of this bone should be most marked, well strung, so to speak, and there should be a distinct groove right from the back of the knee to the fetlock. The knee should be wide and almost flat; the outlines of the bones should be discernible; it should convey an idea of powerfulness, and the bone at the back of the knee should protrude considerably.

The pastern should appear in general proportion to the whole leg, neither short nor long; it should not be too sloping, or weakness is indicated; nor should it be too upright.

The horse should stand well on his fore legs, which, viewed from the front, should exhibit practically the same width between the inner top corners of the knees as between the fetlock joints. A plumb-line from the point of the shoulder to the ground should equally

divide the knee, shank, pastern, and hoof. Viewed from the side, the leg should appear vertical, and not too much under the body.

The back from the withers to the loins should be straight and somewhat short; it must not be, however, too short. The loins should always be wide and full of muscle. The croup should be oblique rather than horizontal, and the haunches should be prominent. The tail should be set well up on the croup, and carried jauntily. The horse should be well ribbed up, so that the flanks do not appear too hollow nor the hips too prominent. The hind legs are built upon the femur (or upper thigh bone), the tibia (or lower thigh bone), and the metatarsal (or shank bone). The hock is situated between the two latter, and is composed of six small bones; but the hock joint proper is at the articulation of the tibia and that bone of the hock called the astragalus. The whole should present an appearance of rigidity and strength, even of comparative massiveness. There should be no sign of puffiness. A plumb-line from the rear point of the croup should fall either on the point of the hock or slightly in rear of it, and, if continued to the ground, the leg from the hock downwards should be nearly perpendicular with it. For if this be not so, the hock will be either over-straight or over-bent, both of which are faulty, the former being

susceptible to excessive concussion, and the latter to strain. Viewed from behind, the hocks should be turned neither inwards nor outwards; but if forced to make a choice between the two, I would prefer a horse slightly "cow hocked" to one with his hocks turned out. The foot will be dealt with in the next chapter.

With regard to faults, the reverse of any good points are in varying degrees objectionable; but in selecting troop horses, "brushing" (i.e., going too close either in front or behind), feet turned in or out, speedy cutting, over-reaching, and all defects of gait are most important faults.

A hollow or long back, a narrow chest, a short neck, a clumsy head, legginess, lack of bone, unintelligent expression, imperfect eyesight or wind, &c., have all to be taken into account.

The proper way to proceed to sum up a horse is to look for the bad points and defects. The good points and qualities can be far more easily found.

CHAPTER II.

THE FOOT.

“ No foot, no horse !” is an old and true saying. Even a slight injury to any one of his feet may render the horse absolutely useless, for the time being at any rate. Too much care and attention cannot, therefore, be paid to them, and it is, accordingly, desirable that every horseman should have some knowledge of the construction of the foot.

The size of a horse's foot ought to be in artistic proportion to the general conformation of the animal. I personally prefer to see the foot, if anything, on the large side. The fore feet are almost circular in shape, while the hind rather incline to be oval. They should be of equal size. The heels should be wide and of the same height. The horn, or outer wall, should be fairly smooth and free from grooves. The angle, or slope, of this wall should be about 50 deg. The sole should be concave, more so in the hind than the front feet. The frog ought to be very prominent, especially towards the heels, and well down, its province being to arrest concussion, and the more use it gets the better for the whole foot.

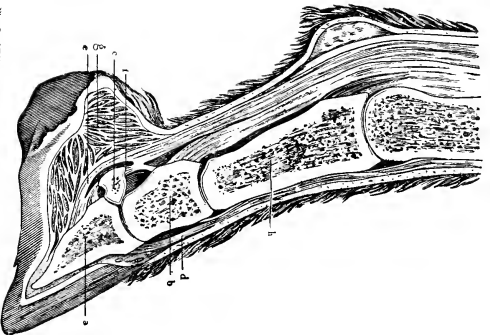


FIG. 1. SECTION SHOWING THE INTERNAL PARTS OF THE FOOT, &c.

(a) Pedal or coffin bone ; (b) coronary small pastern bone ; (c) navicular bone ; (d) extensor tendon ; (e) flexor tendon ; (f) capsule between flexor tendon and navicular bone ; (g) plantar cushion ; (h) large pastern bone.

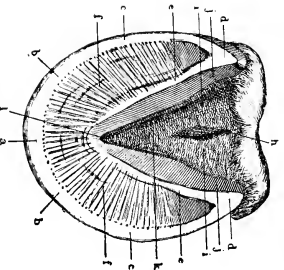


FIG. 2. INFERIOR OR GROUND FACE OF THE HOOF.

(a) The toe ; (b) outside and inside toe ; (c) the quarter ; (d) the heel ; (e) the bar or stay ; (f) the sole ; (g) the cleft of frog ; (h) the body of frog ; (i) the internal clefts ; (j) the body of frog ; (k) the point of frog.

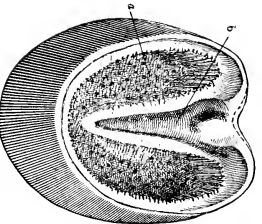


FIG. 3. INTERIOR OF THE HOOF.

(a) Superior or internal face of the sole ; (b) superior or internal face of the frog.

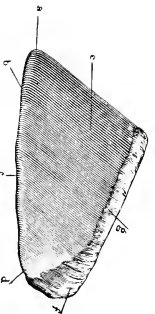


FIG. 4. PROFILE OF THE HOOF.

(a) The toe ; (b) outside toe (or inside) ; (c) the quarter ; (d) the heel ; (e) external face or wall ; (f) the frog ; (g) the sole ; (h) the frog's body ; (i) the frog's point ; (j) the frog's cleft ; (k) the frog's body ; (l) the frog's point ; (m) the frog's cleft ; (n) the frog's body ; (o) the frog's point ; (p) the frog's cleft ; (q) the frog's body ; (r) the frog's point ; (s) the frog's cleft ; (t) the frog's body ; (u) the frog's point ; (v) the frog's cleft ; (w) the frog's body ; (x) the frog's point ; (y) the frog's cleft ; (z) the frog's body.

The importance of keeping the feet perfectly clean cannot be exaggerated. A reference to the illustrations will convey to the reader's mind a correct idea of the several parts of which the foot is composed.

FOOT TROUBLES.

The following may be regarded as common occurrences in connection with the foot:—

CORNS.—Ill-fitting shoes, faulty preparation of the foot for shoeing, irregular removal of the shoes, overwork on hard ground, and bruises are the usual causes of corns; although some horses are predisposed to them by reason of some defect in the hoof. If the sole is examined the horn will appear blood-stained at the seat of the corn. The shoe should be removed and the horn pared away carefully. Any matter should be allowed an outlet. Hot fomentations and poulticing are necessary whenever pain is evident.

The shoe should not be replaced until all lameness has gone, and then it should be shaped so as to avoid the injured part.

THRUSH.—The presence of this disease is always revealed by an offensive smell. Its seat is in the cleft of the frog. Neglect is the usual cause. The first thing to be done is to cleanse the foot with some Jeyes' fluid and water, after which dry thoroughly, and apply frequent dressings of Stockholm tar, being careful to

leave none of the crevices unattended to. If not taken in hand in time, the disease may turn to canker, which is a most difficult thing to cure.

QUITTOR is one of the most painful things, and does not lend itself to amateurish treatment. It is the result of an injury to the hoof, the suppurating matter from which, in its efforts to escape, makes its way towards the coronet, or even the heels, forming one or more sinuses, or channels. A neglected corn will often result in quittor. The first care should be to discourage the exit at the coronet by paring the sole well down, so as to give a free outlet for the discharge. This should be encouraged to descend by means of bran poultices, after which the treatment is usually surgical; but good results may follow the probing of the sore once a day with some cotton wool steeped in crude carbolic acid, until all discharge has ceased. Professional aid, when obtainable, should always be sought.

SAND-CRACK.—The wall of the hoof is liable to split, or crack, as the result of faulty secretion of horn. It usually occurs in the "inner quarter" of the fore hoofs and the "front" of the hind ones. When it penetrates through the horn, and the split nips the sensitive structures, bleeding and great pain follows. The treatment consists of rasping down the horn so as to relieve the pressure. The foot should then be placed in a pail of warm water for at least an hour, and immediately after-

wards a thick bran poultice should be applied. Firing the horn above the crack and immediately below the coronet with the application of a blister to the latter, induces a healthy growth of horn. As soon as lameness disappears the shoe may be put on, care being taken to remove a portion of the horn below the crack, so that the risk of pressure from the shoe becomes minimised.

The crack should be dressed with tow on which a liberal quantity of Stockholm tar has been smeared, and this may be kept in position by a bandage. If the lameness continues for more than a few days, the sooner professional advice is obtained the better.

TREADS are usually caused by the horse turning round in such a clumsy manner as to place one foot on top of the other. The coronet is usually the seat of the injury, and be it borne in mind that all injuries to this part should be regarded as serious. As in all wounds, the preliminary cleansing should be thorough, and the hair on the adjacent skin should be clipped. If the wound is ragged, all the loose parts are better detached, and the foot should be placed in a warm water bath. The creolin lotion, recommended for broken knees, and applied in the same way, is as good a remedy as can be used.

SEEDY TOE is the name given to a detachment of the horn from the laminæ at the ground surface of the wall of the foot. It frequently follows the disease

known as laminitis, and may result from direct injury to the parts. The hoof, if lightly tapped, sounds hollow. All diseased horn should be removed, and a healthier growth encouraged by blisters to the coronet, and moisture. If any of the sensitive parts become exposed they should be dressed with tar and tow until the sound horn grows.

FOOT, PUNCTURE OF.—Usually caused by the farrier when shoeing. A nail is carelessly driven into the sensitive parts of the foot, and although the man may discover and withdraw it at once, the mischief is, of course, done. If, therefore, your horse shows signs of lameness, however slight, on his return from the forge, be sure and have the shoes off and his feet most carefully examined. I have seen cases of foot puncture arising from nails being dropped in the street, and on one occasion a horse belonging to a friend of mine “picked up” a penknife, the small blade of which penetrated an inch and a half.

The horny sole must be pared away until the seat of the injury is reached, so that the discharge can flow away freely. If this is not done it will make its way upwards and find an exit at the top of the hoof (coronet), causing the patient intense pain the while.

Place the injured foot in a big linseed or bran poultice. Feed on bran mash, carrots, and the like, and give in the night mash a double handful of Epsom salts.

Repeat twice. In these and similar cases the bowels should be kept active, and the temperature as near normal as possible.

OVER-REACH is caused by the horse covering more ground with his hind legs than he ought, and thereby kicking one or both of the heels of the fore feet. Remove the shoe of the injured foot, and stand the foot in a pail of hot water (about 80 degrees) for an hour or more, after which apply a bran and linseed poultice. Subsequently dress the wound with tow steeped in carbolised lotion, and kept in position by a linen bandage.

The two most serious diseases to which the foot is subject, viz., navicular disease and laminitis, are essentially ones for professional treatment; but there can be no harm in indicating how their presence may be diagnosed.

NAVICULAR DISEASE is only found in the fore feet, and is usually the result of excessive work on hard roads, although bad shoeing, whereby the frog, the natural cushion of the foot, is prevented from coming in contact with the ground, is often the primary cause.

The seat of the disease is in the back part of the foot (the navicular bone). If the sole is tapped with a light hammer, on either side of the frog, the animal will evince pain, as he will if the thumb is pressed into the hollow of the heel.

The affected foot feels abnormally hot, and the horse invariably stands with it pointing out, as it were, the heel being raised, and his weight borne by the other three legs. If both feet are affected he "points" them in turn and at frequent intervals.

He will trot short, favouring the heels as much as possible, and the shoes will bear evidence of the fact by the unduly worn appearance they present at the toes. If ridden he will stumble a great deal, and it is with a weight on his back that the lameness is most apparent. Going down a hill, when, of course, he can't favour his heels, is as purgatory to the poor beast.

The disease is more serious than laminitis, and as it is one for which the operation called neurotomy (i.e., unnerving), by which the foot is deprived of sensation, is practically the only means of enabling the horse to go sound, it is as well, when purchasing a horse without a V.S.'s opinion (a thing the novice should never do), to make sure that the animal has not been so treated, which can be done by, for instance, a slight pin-prick above the coronet.

LAMINITIS, which is commonly known as "foot fever," is an extremely painful disease of the sensitive laminae, the most frequent cause of which is, as in navicular disease, excessive work on hard ground, although it may also arise from improper feeding, want of regular exercise, &c. In this disease the horse, when

standing, will endeavour to favour his toes by throwing his weight on the heels. All four feet may be involved, but it is usually the fore ones which are affected. The pulse is greatly accelerated, and the breathing appears laboured.

The animal shows a disinclination to move, and in very severe cases he will be found lying down, and can only be got up with the greatest difficulty. The hocks feel very hot, and, indeed, the whole appearance of the animal indicates the great pain he suffers.

The outer wall develops a series of irregular rings or grooves: in fact, the whole hoof may be thrown out of shape. The horse trots on his heels in a most palpable fashion, and the knee action becomes impaired.

This disease is a common source of "Seedy Toe."

In all cases of lameness, when the trouble is either in the feet or the fetlock joints, the shoe or shoes should be removed.

SHOEING.

When the old shoe is removed any excessive downward growth of the wall should be rasped away from the ground surface of the foot until, as stated elsewhere, the angle of the hoof approximates 50 deg. Under no circumstances should the rasp be applied to the outer surface of the wall when healthy. The excess of growth is usually at the toe. The sole and frog should be left severely alone, and if I had my way the farrier's instru-

ment, known as a drawing knife, would be abolished, for the misuse of it is a fertile source of evil, and the average farrier seems to take a pride in "trimming" a horse's foot, either wilfully, or in ignorance of the mischief which may supervene. The ground surface of the wall should be rasped absolutely level, for if one side of the foot be at all higher than the other discomfort must ensue. There is no real necessity for the old habit of fitting the shoe to the foot by burning down the horn with it. The shoe should fit full all round the circumference and project slightly beyond the heels. In nailing it on care should be taken to avoid the sensitive parts by keeping outside the line of white horn which marks the union of the laminae with the wall. The nails should pierce the outer surface of the wall about an inch from the ground surface, and should be driven home more firmly at the toe than the heel, particularly the inside heel. The clinches should be laid as flat as possible, and with the least assistance from the rasp. Calkings are quite unnecessary if the frog is allowed to fulfil its proper mission. The shoes should be removed at least once a month. It is hardly necessary for me to add that owing to its great importance this subject might very well occupy several chapters. It is essentially one of the things which every horseman ought to endeavour to become practically acquainted with.

CHAPTER III.

COMMON DEFECTS: HOW TO RECOGNISE AND TREAT THEM.

CURB is situated some four or five inches below the point of the hock. If you stand facing the outside of the horse's hind leg you'll observe that, instead of the line from the point of the hock downwards being straight, there is a marked protuberance in the region referred to. It is caused by a sprain of one or other of the ligaments, and once there, although the lameness which originally resulted may never recur, the blemish always remains. Curb is treated by blistering (biniodide of mercury one part, lard seven parts), or in the more severe cases by firing. It is evidence of weakness of the hock.

CAPPED HOCK may be detected in the same way as curb. It is a swelling on the point of the hock, and is usually the result of kicking or a blow. It is hardly an unsoundness, but it is unsightly, and extremely difficult to reduce if any delay occurs before treatment, which consists of fomentations, followed by vigorous and frequent hand rubbing and the application of arnica. In a day or two iodine may be painted on.

SPAVIN is an exostosis or bony excrescence situated on the inner and lower aspect of the hock. The tendency to this trouble is increased by any peculiarity or defective conformation in the structure of the joint.

By reason of the defective conformation any undue pressure, or concussion, or sprain of the ligaments, usually results in the formation of spavin. As a rule, the more visible the spavin the less important it is, but a spavined horse should always be eyed with suspicion.

The treatment in the primary stage, when lameness supervenes, is absolute rest in a loose box. In this, as in all troubles involving the formation of bony deposits, it is a great mistake to tie a horse up in a stall, except, of course, during the active stage of blistering, when if the horse were allowed to have his freedom great danger would be run of his gnawing at the blistered part, and of the blistering agent getting into his mouth, or even eyes.

The hock should be subjected to the influence of cold water, applied by means of a hose pipe, several times a day until the inflammation subsides. If, after a week of such treatment, the lameness still exists, then the more drastic action of a stiff blister must be resorted to. If that fails, firing will have to be done.

In examining a horse for spavin the hocks should be closely compared the one with the other, and if any difference is apparent, steps should be taken to ascertain

whether the enlargement which has been detected is of a bony nature. Recollect that the seat of spavin is usually on the inside of the hock, below the joint and well to the front. It is, however, quite possible for a horse to be afflicted with spavin without showing much visible signs; such cases are usually of the worst description. It does not by any means follow that a horse exhibiting spavins is a useless animal. It is entirely a question of degree.

SPLINT.—The origin of splint is pretty much the same as spavin. It is an exostosis, and usually forms on the inside of the canon bone, nearer the knee than the fetlock. Its importance entirely depends on its position. A splint which is well forward, and away from the knee, is of small moment, but it may be so placed as to interfere with the tendons, and consequently subject the animal to recurrent lameness.

A splint rarely appears on the hind legs. It is a curious fact that whereas spavin lameness becomes less apparent (for the time being) if the horse is subjected to exercise, splint lameness becomes accentuated.

There is no difficulty in finding a splint when well forward, simply because a glance at the canon bone reveals it at once, but as the larger splints are usually fully formed, a horse need not be rejected or trouble with him from that cause be anticipated, provided, as stated above, the protuberance is not in a position

likely to cause lameness. It is, however, in the detection of a splint which has just commenced to form, and which as yet exhibits no objective sign, that one's experience is tested. It must be borne in mind that in the majority of cases the horse may walk to all appearance quite sound, and yet trot "dead lame." That is usually a sure indication of splint trouble. But to locate it, get an assistant to hold up the leg opposite the suspected one, so that the horse is obliged to brace the tendons of the latter. Pass the first and second finger carefully along the groove formed by the inner small metacarpal and the cannon bones, and if the least irregularity or unevenness is revealed to the touch, there, in all probability, is the splint.

As the cause and effect are similar to those of spavin, so must the treatment be. Rest and cold application in the first place, followed by severer measures if these fail. A sweating bandage is greatly favoured by some. An ordinary linen bandage is soaked in ice-cold water and placed on the leg: this is covered with oiled silk, and this in turn with an ordinary woollen bandage. It is a peculiarity of all bony deposits that they decrease in size as the animal increases in age.

RINGBONE is the name given to a bony deposit which, from similar causes to spavin and splint, may form on the pastern bone, and involving either the pastern or coffin joints. If the deposit affects the bones

without involving the joints, it is called "false ringbone." Ringbone is most frequently confined to the hind pasterns, and it is principally found in heavy types of horses.

If both pasterns are affected, the horse is not suitable for hard work, and, personally, I would rather risk buying a horse with spavins about which there was a doubt than one with ringbones.

SIDEBONE is ossification of the lateral cartilages of the foot, and arises as the result of a knock or wound, as well as from concussion.

Cart horses are more frequently affected than those of a lighter breed, and, indeed, the latter do not frequently suffer from it; at the same time it is a disease which is more detrimental to a light horse than a heavy one. Sidebone usually occurs in the fore feet, and it can be easily detected by pressure.

If instead of a springy elastic feeling the lateral cartilages are hard and irresponsive to the touch, there is trouble. As in all osseous formations, it is rarely possible to do more than endeavour to arrest the process of ossification, and in the present state of veterinary surgical knowledge that is an almost hopeless task. The trouble is best dealt with by an operation, which in uncomplicated cases is invariably successful; so the sooner the animal receives professional attention the better.

CHAPTER IV.

SOME AILMENTS AND THEIR TREATMENT

Every horseman ought to be able to treat his horse for simple mishaps, such as galls, caused by ill-fitting saddlery, cracked heels, slight flesh wounds, &c., and in more serious cases be able to give the animal temporary relief pending the veterinary surgeon's arrival. The following are those most likely to be met with:—

ANUS, PROTRUSION OF.—Usually caused by straining. The part must be cleaned and carefully pressed back. Afterwards use gallic acid ointment freely.

COLIC (Pain in the Stomach).—Simple colic is not dangerous. The horse keeps turning his head towards his sides, occasionally snapping at them, and frequently endeavours to kick his belly; the pains come and go, and when severe cause sweating. Drinking very cold water when over-heated, undesirable food, worms, and constipation are among the causes. Give turpentine, $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce; tincture of ginger, 1 ounce; linseed oil, 12 ounces. Half a pint of whiskey will often give relief.

Hand-rubbing is always good, so is steady walking. If you are sure the cause is constipation, give a purge in the form of a ball containing six drachms of aloes, and keep the horse walking about for an hour.

Occasionally colic assumes a flatulent form owing to the accumulation of gas in the stomach, which becomes distended. The vet. should be sought at once. As a temporary measure, 2 ounces of turpentine mixed in a pint of linseed oil is the treatment.

INFLAMMATION OF THE BOWELS may be recognised if, in addition to the symptoms of colic, the horse exhibits a pinched, anxious expression, accompanied by febrile disturbance (including, of course, an increased pulse), coldness of the extremities, and continuous, as distinct from intermittent, pain. It is a disease which frequently proves fatal, and in many cases the end comes very rapidly; therefore it is imperative to seek professional aid without delay. All the amateur can do is to endeavour to get the bowels to act, and to assuage the pain. For the latter purpose the following prescription is one of the best:—

Sweet spirit of nitre	...	1 ounce.
Chloric ether	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.
Tincture of belladonna	...	2 drachms.
Chlorodyne	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.
Tincture of capsicum	...	3 drachms.
Tincture of ginger	...	3 drachms.
Water	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ pint.

Mix well and administer at once. Repeat in two or three hours if necessary.

Hand-rubbing is useless, but hot fomentations in the form of blankets soaked in boiling water, rung out, and applied to the stomach are useful.

DIARRHŒA arises from a variety of causes, among which may be mentioned sudden changes of food, exposure, too much green meat, worms, &c.

Give in a pint of gruel powdered opium 1 drachm, prepared chalk 1 oz., powdered catechu 1 drachm. Keep the patient warm by means of rugs and bandages.

EYES.—Horses occasionally suffer from the eyelids becoming inflamed (conjunctivitis), causing the lids to close partially, and in severe cases the whole of the mucous membrane lining the lids becomes involved. Not infrequently the eye itself becomes quite opaque, and presents to the novice an alarming appearance.

Some horses are always liable to these attacks (recurrent ophthalmia) if they are subjected to inclement weather, draughts, and the like, but more often the trouble is caused by some foreign substance, such as a hay-seed lodging in the eyelid: therefore the eye should be carefully examined the moment the symptoms manifest themselves, and if any direct cause is discovered it should be, of course, removed. The horse should be kept in a darkened stable, and the affected eye carefully

bathed every hour with boric lotion, to which a little cocaine may be added. A drop or two of castor oil between the lids is soothing. As the inflammation subsides, the eye itself will become clear, and gradually assume its normal appearance.

It is said that in recurrent ophthalmia every attack leaves the sight weaker, and generally results in blindness.

GALLS are, as a rule, caused by ill-fitting saddlery, bad riding, &c. A predisposing cause is the bad habit of removing the saddle before the horse has quite cooled down. Make it a golden rule on returning from a ride to loosen the girths, and raise the saddle for a moment, but never take it off so long as the back is at all wet.

As soon as you have off-saddled, carefully look over your horse, and if any lumps (warbles) are found, or if there be any abrasions, the saddlery should be examined to see if the trouble can be attributed to any defect therein. If such is discovered it should be remedied at once.

The treatment of the gall itself consists of a liberal application of the lotion recommended for cracked heels. Where there is much swelling I believe in the free use of cold water. A tablespoonful of salt in a pint of water is a useful fall-back if the other lotion cannot be obtained.

SITFAST is the name given to an intractable lump, or warble, arising as above described. As a rule, a sitfast only yields to a surgical operation, the resultant wound being stimulated, if necessary, into healthy granulation, when it will heal up, leaving, of course, a slight scar.

FISTULOUS WITHERS is apt to follow the neglect of any swelling of the withers caused by an ill-fitting saddle. If taken in time and the same treatment as for galls is applied, the trouble will quickly disappear; otherwise an attempt must be made to reduce the inflammation by means of frequent fomentations. If this fails, it may be concluded that pus is forming, and an extensive opening must be made with a lancet to enable it to escape. This opening should always be at the lowest edge of the swelling, so that drainage may be effective, and the wound should be kept open by means of a wedge of tow smeared with oil of turpentine 1 part, olive oil 4 parts, so long as any discharge is going on. Unless the pus is got away it will form sinuses among the muscles, &c., and a typical case of fistulous withers then exists which is beyond amateur treatment.

BROKEN KNEES are invariably caused by the horse coming down, and are severe or slight according to the depth of the actual wound. If the skin is not broken you cannot do better than bathe well with hot water,

and put on a loose bandage, which keep saturated with a solution of arnica. Do not let the horse lie down. If the skin is broken lose no time in thoroughly cleansing it of any grit, always remembering that the least particle might, if not removed, cause serious complications. Use warm, not cold, water for the purpose, and if a little Condyl's or Jeyes' fluid can be added so much the better. Dress the wound with some tow saturated in creolin 4 drachms, cold water 1 quart (an excellent antiseptic for all wounds), and kept in position by a bandage. The wound will be all the better for being bathed with the lotion twice a day. Feed on mashes. Keep the horse racked up.

In bad cases the veterinary surgeon may have to put in some stitches, and in the most serious cases the joint may be involved.

NOSTRILS BLEEDING may be checked by syringing with warm and cold water alternately.

PNEUMONIA.—There is one form of pneumonia which I feel I ought to refer to, because it occasionally attacks a horse which has been subjected to violent work before he has been properly prepared for it. The attack is quite sudden, and may come on in the field.

The victim comes to an abrupt standstill, breathes rapidly, and has a pulse of about 100 a minute. The flanks heave, the body becomes cold, and the face expresses pain.

If there's a breeze turn his head towards it. Take the saddle off. Vigorously hand-rub the legs and ears, and give half a pint of whiskey in an equal quantity of water.

The veterinary surgeon will probably bleed the horse to the extent of 3 or 4 quarts of blood.

LAMPAS.—Sometimes a horse, and particularly a young one, will go "off his feed" without any apparent reason. Before the corn is offered to him he will display the usual anxiety to get at it; but when he gets it, instead of eating it, he will take up a mouthful and reject nearly all of it, and eventually give up the attempt. If you open his mouth and examine the palate you will find that the anterior of it is down below the biting edge of his teeth. This is the result of inflammation, and the consequent soreness prevents the horse from eating. In young horses it is usually due to the natural process of dentition, and in older ones, where such cannot be the cause, it probably arises from some stomachic trouble.

The treatment is simply palliative: Keep the horse on soft food, such as bran mashes, and give him a dose of Epsom salts ($\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.). He should be able to eat corn again in three or four days. Scarifying the palate gives immediate relief, but the trouble is of such a temporary nature that such a drastic remedy is scarcely justified.

SPRAINS of either the muscles or tendons may usually be diagnosed if the injured part feels unduly hot and exhibits swelling. The horse walks or moves in evident pain. Apply, as a cooling lotion arnica (tincture of) 2 ounces, water 1 pint. Even pressure is required, and this is best obtained by using cotton wool and a fairly tight bandage. The lotion can then be poured into the wool without removing the bandage, about five times a day, or so frequently as never to let it become dry. In a day or two the heat will have gone, then rub in plenty of Elliman's embrocation twice daily. In more serious cases a blister may be found necessary. Rest plays the most important part in cases of sprain, so the less the horse is moved about the better.

STRINGHALT is the name given to an extravagant jerky action of one or both hind legs, which I am sure my readers must have frequently noticed some horses exhibit. It doesn't seem to interfere with the animal, though it is, as a rule, more apparent after a period of rest and decreases during exercise. Nobody seems to be able to account for it, nor has any remedy been discovered.

SWELLED LEGS.—Sometimes on going into the stable in the morning it will be observed that one or both hind legs are "filled" without any apparent cause, such as a wound or a strain due to kicking, to account

for it; indeed, so far from there being abnormal heat, the warmth of the limb will probably be subnormal. The trouble is due to an effusion of serum into the limb, arising from imperfect action of the kidneys, &c., which may be caused by improper feeding—the error, as a rule, being on the too liberal side—want of regular exercise, and so on. In minor cases the swelling will disappear on the horse being exercised, which has the effect of restoring the vitality of the absorbents, but where the trouble arises from debility a course of tonic medicine may be necessary. In any event a mild diuretic, such as an ounce of nitre in a mash at night, should be given, and horses which are predisposed to the trouble should always have their legs bandaged.

URINE. RETENTION OF.—Horses, on returning from the day's outing, always should be encouraged to stale (i.e., pass water). Many horses will not stale while out at work, and if the day has been a long one the bladder may have become over-distended and inflammation set up. The horse may display restlessness and anxiety, and now and then will stand stretched out as if trying to relieve himself.

In minor cases the shaking about of fresh straw under him, hand-rubbing of the belly, or the hand passed through the anus, and gentle pressure on the fundus of the bladder (which can be quite plainly felt), may bring

about the desired result ; but, in any event, it is always safest not to delay requisitioning professional advice for long. The trouble may arise from several causes besides that mentioned above, and an immediate operation may be necessary.

URINE, INCONTINENCE OF, may be brought about by the indiscriminate use of diuretics, either directly as medicine intended to act on the kidneys, or unwittingly in the form of condition balls or powders, most of which contain ingredients which have an irritating effect on those organs. Mow-burnt, or mouldy, hay, and kiln-dried oats are also likely to set up the mischief. In addition to the frequent passing of water, the horse will display an inordinate thirst, and will neglect his food if this is not freely gratified. The digestive organs are impaired and the bowels inactive. The strength rapidly decreases, so that even slight exercise results in sweating. Where the trouble can be traced to bad forage the remedy is, of course, clear ; but, in any event, a change of diet is desirable. Linseed tea should be offered instead of water, but if the horse refuses this he should be watered from a river or a clean pond ; while one drachm of iodide of iron every day for a week will have a beneficial effect.

WOUNDS may be either incised (clean cut), punctured (stabbed), or lacerated (torn). The seriousness of a

wound depends rather on its situation than otherwise. For instance, a huge wound, which would present an alarming appearance to a novice, might not be nearly so serious as a small wound on the coronet.

All chest and belly wounds are liable to complications, and the most trivial wound of the foot has to be carefully watched.

One of the important things to be done in connection with wounds is to arrest the bleeding, and this is simple enough except where an injured artery is involved, when it may require to be tied. As a rule, however, the application of some such styptic as Friar's balsam proves effective.

The hæmorrhage from wounds in the limbs can in most instances be arrested by a tourniquet (a hastily improvised one may be made with a handkerchief and a piece of stick) placed on the limb above or below the wound, as may be required. When an artery has been severed or ruptured, the blood will be of a bright scarlet colour, and spurting, and the tourniquet should be above the injury; but if the blood is of a dark colour and flows evenly, then the veins only are implicated, and the tourniquet should be below the wound.

Care should be taken to remove all dirt, and where the bleeding is not really alarming (it is astonishing how much blood a horse can safely lose) this should be

the first care. Lukewarm water squeezed from a sponge held above the wound will wash away any foreign substances. The sponge should not be allowed to touch the wound.

A simple incised wound requires but little attention after the bleeding has been stopped. The edges must be brought together, and, if necessary, kept in position by stitching. I have seen an ordinary pin passed through the skin of each edge and a hair from the horse's tail wound over it as a sailor would wind a rope on a belaying-pin. Union was accomplished in a few days, the pin withdrawn, and the horse was at work in a week.

Punctures are more troublesome. The simple ones do best if transformed by the aid of the knife into incised wounds. By this means the discharge is given a chance of escape and the healing process becomes facilitated. In the serious cases the puncture may have penetrated a joint or the covering of a tendon.

Lacerated wounds require careful attention, and usually take longer to heal than either of the former. They bleed but little. Having carefully cleansed the wounds as above directed, any jagged edges must be replaced as carefully as possible. At the same time, the great thing to remember is that wounds of this description must not be allowed to close until it is

apparent that the deep parts are healed by the natural process of granulation. The wound should be kept covered with wet lint, and may be bathed with very weak Condyl's occasionally. If a hard scab forms it must be removed by fomentation, or even poulticing.

Unless the wounds are of a serious character, it will rarely be necessary to interfere with the horse's usual diet, but it is always safe to give a dose of cooling medicine, and in bad cases corn must be stopped and the animal put on mashes, carrots, and the like.

COLDS AND COUGHS.—The same causes which produce colds and coughs in mankind are most frequently the origin of similar complaints in the horse—lack of proper ventilation, the presence of draughts, and inattention to sanitary and hygienic arrangements generally; standing about and catching chills when heated, coming in contact with contagion, and so on. A cold which, if taken in hand at once, would quickly disappear, may, through neglect, develop into serious bronchial or pulmonary trouble. It is therefore important to be able to recognise the first symptoms of cold, and to know the necessary treatment to pursue in endeavouring to arrest its course. In common cold the lining of the nostrils becomes inflamed, and a rise in temperature may take place. An examination of the eyes and the nose will usually reveal the fact that the

lining membranes, instead of presenting the normal pink colour, look decidedly red. Sneezing will occur; the nose will discharge; the eyes appear watery, and the cough will sound hard and dry. The action of the bowels will in some cases be impaired, and the animal will droop his head and present a "sorry for himself" sort of appearance. The inflammation may either begin in the throat or extend to it. Horses coming off grass are peculiarly apt to catch cold, and mainly because of the pernicious habit, due to ignorance, of not providing for the freest ingress of fresh air into the stables. I have never known a horse to catch cold on being turned out to grass.

The treatment in the incipient stages is isolation in a thoroughly ventilated loose box, and good nursing (see Nursing). Corn and hay must be stopped, and warm mashes and green-meat substituted. The body and legs will require to be kept warm. An ounce of powdered nitre in the night mash—preferably a linseed mash—will counteract the feverish symptoms, and this may be repeated twice or three times if necessary. When constipation is present the safest medicine is two ounces of sulphate of magnesia night and morning. This can be given in the food. Purgative medicine should never be resorted to in such cases.

When the throat is evidently very sore, the indications of which are abnormal heat of the mouth, difficulty in

swallowing, &c., a good rubbing with some stimulating liniment, or a mild blister made of two pennyworth of hartshorn and one pennyworth of Russian tallow, should prove effective.

If in a few days, or a week at the outside, the patient is not rapidly recovering, or should more serious symptoms present themselves, professional advice should be sought without delay.

As the patient throws off the cold his corn and hay may gradually be resumed, and as his strength becomes re-established he may be steadily exercised, and so brought back by degrees to his usual work.

RHEUMATISM is not of very common occurrence in well-cared horses, but it is none the less a troublesome disease, and one which is very apt to recur. It is usually the joints which are attacked, but the muscles of the shoulders, loins, and quarters occasionally suffer. The acute form of the disease may be recognised by its peculiar habit of shifting about from one part to another. For instance, it may appear in one limb, and in a few hours it may have disappeared and be found in another. It frequently attacks its victim quite suddenly when at work, causing severe lameness, so that one would imagine the animal to have received a sprain, or to have picked up a stone. When the joints are affected there is the usual local evidence of inflammation and febrile

disturbance of the system. This is not so much the case in the muscular form. The treatment consists of frequent hot fomentations, after which the part should be thoroughly dried and well rubbed with a strong liniment. Flannel bandages on the limbs and extra warm clothing on the body are essential. One ounce of bicarbonate of soda daily, and an ounce of nitre in the night mash, the usual laxative diet, and good nursing will usually prove effective.

CHAPTER V.

SKIN TROUBLES.

The horse is occasionally the subject of diseases of the skin. but in almost every case the origin can be traced to neglect of some sort.

CRACKED HEELS arise, as a rule, from inattention in the matter of thoroughly drying the hollow of the heels, either after the legs have been washed or after the horse has sweated freely. A predisposing cause may be a disordered stomach; but there is really no excuse for them. The hind heels are more frequently affected. On the first appearance of any rawness, regular washing with a weak solution of Jeyes' fluid and a dose of cooling medicine will usually prove effective. The application of a little zinc ointment is also beneficial, and so long as the animal is not lame work wont hurt him, provided the heels are properly attended to on his return to the stables. But should the sore prove indolent, and if there is much heat and inflammation, he

will require to be rested and linseed poultices applied, and when these symptoms are abated a lotion composed of

White vitriol	..	...	1½ ounces.
Sugar of lead	...	...	2 „
Water	...	...	1 quart

should be used four or five times a day. A horse which has once suffered is liable to a recurrence of the complaint, and therefore requires all the more care.

GREASE is practically an advanced stage of neglected cracked heels, the skin of the pasterns becoming involved, extending up the legs, which in bad cases become alarmingly swollen. The first signs of this disease are considerable local irritation, as evidenced by stamping, and this is usually followed by the swelling of one or both legs, and the appearance on the hair of the heels of the oil-like discharge which the skin exudes. In the advanced stage malignant ulcers form, and these give off an offensive discharge.

If taken in time the disease yields to such simple treatment as a stiff dose of Epsom salts, liberal fomentation, and linseed poulticing to subdue the inflammatory symptoms, followed by a plentiful application of carbolised oil. Needless to say, the diet will consist of laxative food, such as mash, &c., and good nursing is very important.

MANGE, if once allowed to become firmly established, is a most loathsome disease, known to the horsey fraternity as "the dook" (duke), and is due to a microscopical insect finding a congenial habitat on the skin of a neglected, improperly groomed horse. It is unpardonable evidence of laziness and incompetence on the part of the person responsible. It usually appears in the mane and tail, and if not promptly checked the whole of the skin becomes covered with excrustations, which, when rubbed off by the animal's efforts to obtain relief, leave ugly-looking sores.

The first thing to do is to destroy the insect life. The animal should be dressed all over with a solution of carbolic acid in the proportion of one ounce to a quart of water, one application of which left on for a couple of days is, as a rule, sufficient. The horse should then be washed all over with a weak solution of Jeyes' fluid as an additional precaution, and so long as any itchiness continues the treatment should be repeated. The constitution must be built up by good food, and a liberal supply of green-meat given to keep the blood cool. Occasional linseed mashes exercise a beneficial effect on the skin and coat.

Every article of clothing, saddlery, brushes, &c., should be thoroughly cleansed, either by boiling, sponging with paraffin, or soaking in Jeyes' fluid. The

stable should be thoroughly scrubbed out, and the bedding should be burned. Mange is highly contagious, so every precaution should be adopted to minimise the risk of the disease spreading.

MUD-FEVER arises from the same causes, and is analogous to cracked heels and grease. It is often seen on the inside of the thighs and on the belly. Horses which are subject to it should never have their legs clipped, and water should not be used for removing the accumulated mud after exercise. A scraper to take off the wet mud, a subsequent thorough brushing with the dandy, and rubbing with the hand will go a long way towards minimising the risk of the animal being troubled with this complaint. When present the skin feels rough, hot, and inflamed, and the hair stares.

The treatment consists of cooling medicine, laxative food, and the application of a mixture of one part Foulard's extract to four of olive oil.

RINGWORM is not, as its name infers, due to an animal organism, but to a fungoid growth which sets up an inflamed condition of the skin and destroys the hairs, which fall off, leaving bare, circular patches of an unsightly appearance. If taken in time, a simple remedy is a dressing of Stockholm tar, or even sulphur ointment; but if the disease is intractable proceed as for mange. A change of food is necessary, for the trouble is as often due to bad forage as it is to bad grooming.

WARTS are both unsightly and (if they are allowed to reach large dimensions) troublesome, especially if they form on any part where the saddlery is apt to come in contact with them. They usually appear on the parts where the skin is thinnest. Their origin is obscure. The application to the surface, which has been previously prepared by abrasion, of chloride of zinc will remove small warts; or, if the neck is not large, a ligature tied tightly round it will cause it to wither and fall off. Large warts are, however, objects for the surgical skill of a professional man.

CHAPTER VI.

1. GLANDERS AND FARCY.

2. STRANGLES.

Of all the maladies to which the equine race is subject, none are more dreaded than the two forms of the same disease which is described as glanders if it affects the interior of the animal, and farcy if the exterior. Whereas glanders usually appears in or about the region of the head, farcy may appear in any part.

The absorbent system is the seat of the disease, and it is possible for an animal to have it in a latent form for a considerable time before the objective symptoms appear. Fortunately, however, a test, which has proved of the utmost value, was discovered some years ago, the application of which produces unmistakable evidence as to whether or not the disease is present in its incipient form. Probably one of these days the periodical application of this test by regularly-appointed Government officials may be made compulsory, especially where studs are kept, a step which would, undoubtedly, tend towards the eradication of this fearsome scourge. Like most other diseases, it finds its victims more easily

among animals that have been improperly cared; but so contagious is it that even healthy horses may become infected by drinking from the same vessel as a glandered animal, or by any of the numerous other ways in which disease is spread. It is, moreover, communicable to man, so that attendants upon horses suffering from the disease should exercise the utmost care.

The symptoms of glanders are so marked that very little experience is necessary to enable even an amateur to diagnose a case. It will be noticed that one of the nostrils, usually the left, is discharging a watery fluid, which changes to a gluey consistency, and adheres to the nostrils. This discharge is not necessarily confined to one nostril, although it is most frequently so. The submaxillary gland on the same side will be found to be swollen, and a hard, painless lump about the size of a walnut can be plainly felt in the centre of the gland (i.e., between the branches of the lower jaw. The lining membrane of the nose assumes a dull purple colour, and most probably ulcers will be visible, though it occasionally happens that the sores are too high up the nasal cavity to be seen. But their presence can easily be determined by passing a twig, with some cotton wool wound round the tip, up the nostril. The wool, when withdrawn, will be found covered with a blood-stained gleet.

The three certain symptoms are, therefore, (1) the gluey discharge, (2) the ulcerated nostril, and (3) the hard lump, and as they are always present at the same time it is not easy to make a false diagnosis.

FARCY first shows itself in the form of exterior swellings, which rapidly change into a series of "knots" with distinct cords running in different directions from them. The knots, in turn, become discharging ulcers of a malignant and offensive type, and as the disease runs its course these may break out all over the body. Farcy usually makes its appearance in the hind quarters, generally in the legs; but, as before stated, it may break out on any part of the animal. In its virulent form the interior absorbents may become involved (glanders), in which event death quickly ensues.

A glandered horse should be destroyed, and the carcase buried, but naturally this would only be done after a veterinary surgeon had pronounced upon the case. Of course, everything with which the animal had been in contact, the stable, &c., &c., should be most rigorously disinfected.

STRANGLES is a disease confined to young horses, and for this reason it used to be regarded as being associated with dentition troubles. It seems, however, to be a form of distemper, akin to that found in the dog, though with certain distinctive features which

entitle it to be classed as essentially an equine complaint. The opinion of many pathologists is that the disease never appears spontaneously; that, in short, it is the result of contagion. It undoubtedly is a most contagious disease, but in my humble opinion it is quite possible for an animal to suffer from an attack of strangles who has never been exposed to even a remote risk of infection. I believe that it is a means adopted by nature to remedy a certain form of disordered system, and, such being the case, that it does occasionally appear of its own accord. The symptoms of strangles at the commencement are similar to those of a feverish cold. The horse goes off his food, is dull and listless; nasal catarrh appears, and, as the throat becomes involved, he will cough. Subsequently the glands about the throat become swollen and very tender to the touch; difficulty in swallowing is apparent; the breathing is usually laboured, and in from a week to ten days the large abscess which has been gradually forming will either have burst of its own accord, or will be ripe for lancing, whereupon the utmost relief is experienced, and the patient rapidly becomes convalescent. If the disease runs such a normal course as above indicated it is a matter for congratulation; but occasionally the attack is much more severe, and the risk of suffocation, owing to the tumour pressing upon the windpipe, may become

so imminent as to render tracheotomy imperative. Nor is the formation of the tumour necessarily confined to the glands in the region of the throat, for cases have occurred where it has been discovered, not only in internal glandular structures, but even apart from these altogether. Fortunately, however, such cases are the exception, not the rule.

Although I have known of cases of strangles occurring in young horses at grass, there can be no doubt that the time it is most apt to occur is when they are first put into training, or when they are brought up from country to town stables, indicating the necessity for the exercise of unusual care both as to diet and good stable management on such occasions. The change from grass to the ordinary stable rations should be brought about gradually, and the old-fashioned and salutary rule of always giving a horse fresh from pasture a purgative ball has much to commend it. Nor should a young horse be stabled with others until he has been first seasoned in a loose box, the half door of which should be left open day and night, a rule which should be observed as far as possible even in the case of old animals when brought up from grass.

As to the necessary treatment of the complaint, good nursing is the first consideration (see Nursing), and, bearing in mind that the disease invariably runs a

specific course, attention must be directed to assisting towards that end, for any attempt to check it is sure to result in serious trouble; indeed, I think I am safe in stating that many a case has been changed from its normal course and become virulent by misguided treatment in the direction indicated. The usual laxative, nourishing diet referred to in the notes on Nursing must be given. Good grass, freshly cut, when obtainable, or, in its absence, carrots sliced lengthways, will be appreciated. If constipation is present a half-pint of linseed oil will have a good effect. No purgatives are permissible. When the feverish symptoms are strongly marked a drench of a couple of drachms of quinine in a pint of water, to which a few drops of sulphuric acid is added, twice or thrice a day, will subdue them; or, should a drench be inadvisable, an ounce of nitre in a small mash will be a good substitute. Meantime, steps must be taken to facilitate the formation of the abscess, for which purpose poultices of linseed meal or mashed carrots or turnips answer very well, provided care is taken that they are not allowed to become cold before being renewed, and that when it is inconvenient to continue them, such as during the night, the throat is enveloped in flannel. As soon as the abscess is opened perfect drainage should be provided for by keeping the wound open until it is evident that all the pus has

escaped, after which it may be encouraged to heal. Meantime the horse may be offered small feeds of crushed corn and a little hay, and the usual steps taken to rehabilitate his impoverished health. If he is very weak a tablespoonful, slightly damped, of the tonic powder made of

Sulphate of iron ...	...	3 ozs.
Powdered gentian ...	...	2 ozs.
Powdered ginger ...	...	1 oz.
Ground carraway ...	...	1½ ozs.
Bicarbonate of soda ...	...	½ oz.
Locust bean meal ...	...	¼ lb.

may be given in the morning and evening feed. But it must always be remembered that there is no tonic to equal plenty of fresh air, gentle exercise, good grooming, and a liberal supply of the best food. The use of artificial tonics is always attended with a certain amount of risk, and a groom should never be allowed a free hand in such matters.

CHAPTER VII.

BOTS AND WORMS.

I am including bots in these notes, simply because they are looked upon by the uninitiated as worms, whereas their presence in the horse is apparently quite harmless, if, indeed, it be not one of nature's mysterious provisions out of which positive good may arise. Everyone interested in horses has probably noticed that when a horse is brought in from grass at the end of the summer there is usually found adhering to the hairs of his legs and shoulders, or, indeed, of any part of his body which he can reach with his tongue, a number of yellow atoms, which might easily be mistaken for the seeds of some plant. These are the eggs of the gad-fly, who, in pursuit of her mission in life, has deposited them in such a position as will ensure the tiny grubs, which hatch in the course of a few days, finding their way to their predestined winter quarters in the intestines of the horse, who unconsciously assists their transfer thereto by the simple process of licking himself to allay the irritation set up by the flies alighting upon him. The grubs attach themselves to the mucous lining of the intestines by means of tentacles, and obtain sustenance from their

host, until in due time (usually in June or July of the following summer) nature ordains a further change, and the temporary habitat is vacated. It is at this period that the bots are discovered in large numbers in the fæces, and the ignorant person immediately concludes that the horse is suffering from "worms," and will probably proceed to inflict quite useless and unnecessary doses of medicine, for in a few days all the bots will quit of their own accord, and such as survive the process of removal from the stable to the dung-heap will emerge therefrom in a month or so as perfect flies, and ready to fulfil their allotted duties as such. The horsemaster will deduct from the foregoing that one almost infallible sign of an animal having just come off grass is the presence of the gad-fly's eggs on his coat.

Of the different types of worms, properly so-called, which infest the horse, none is so difficult to exterminate as the tape worm, for the reason that each segment is capable of reproduction. Fortunately, however, this pest is very rarely found to exist. The common worms are three in number, viz.:—(1) The long, round worm, known as the lumbricus, which measures from six to twelve or more inches in length, and is usually found in the small intestines; (2) the strangulus, measuring from two to four inches; and (3) the vermicularis, or thread worm. Both the latter are found in the large intestines.

The outward signs that a horse is suffering from worms are a general appearance of unthriftiness, a harsh, staring coat; a hard cough, without any evidence of cold; a variable appetite, sometimes eating voraciously, at others as though he was not enjoying his food; a continuous whisking of the tail; an irritable snapping at his sides, or the appearance of an ecrustated white matter at the anus. And yet without any outward sign worms may be found in the fæces.

In any event, a systematic course of treatment will alone suffice to render the animal proof against the pests; but the immediate object is to clear them out of the intestines, for which purpose two ounces of turpentine in half a pint of linseed oil is the quickest means. The diet should be completely changed, and two drachms of sulphate of iron given daily for a fortnight, at the end of which time a purgative ball made of

Tartar emetic ...	...	1½	drachms.
Barbadoes aloes ...	...	4	..
Powdered ginger ...	...	1	..
Soap ...	...	1	..

will complete the cure.

It is said, and my own experience disposes me to agree, that rock salt in the manger minimises the likelihood of a horse having worms. Anyhow, I believe salt is essential to a horse's health; certainly horses are very fond of it.

CHAPTER VIII.

MEGRIMS OR VERTIGO.

This disease sometimes attacks a horse when he has been subjected to excessive work under a very hot sun. It is evidently due to temporary congestion of the brain, and is more frequent in harness than in saddle horses. It has been noticed that a close-fitting collar or a tight bearing-rein are sufficient to aid in bringing on an attack; and also that a horse subject to megrims in harness never suffered after he was used solely for riding, though this latter may have been but a coincidence. When attacked the animal comes to an abrupt standstill, shakes his head violently or throws it up and down, then staggers about or turns round and falls down, remaining either quite quiet and apparently insensible, or he may exhibit convulsions; in either event he usually recovers in a few minutes, when he will, if required, proceed on his journey as though nothing had happened. But, naturally, a humane person would get the poor creature back to his stable, and see him made comfortable, with the least delay. The attacks are said to be connected with a disordered stomach, so that a

careful regulation of the diet—the horse never being allowed to eat as much as he would like—is indicated. He should be kept on the soft side in condition, i.e., by feeding less corn and more laxative food than is the custom, and should never be subjected to undue work or excitement. Unless such conditions can be assured, the probability of a recurrence must always be reckoned with. But even under the most favourable circumstances no one can say with absolute certainty that a horse who has once had megrims will not again suffer. Personally, I would not keep such an animal for either harness or saddle work.

STAGGERS is also a disease in which the brain is implicated, and usually through its connection with the stomach. It frequently follows over-gorging, a thing a horse who has gone without food for a considerable time is apt to do if he is given the opportunity; or it may arise primarily from actual disease of the brain itself without the predisposing cause, in which case death is almost certain to occur. In the former case there will probably be actual evidence of over-gorging in the form of distension of the stomach, otherwise the symptoms do not vary materially. There are two stages of the disease—the first, known as sleepy staggers, and this may eventuate in the second, or mad staggers. In the first stage the animal appears drowsy, the breathing is

heavy, and he may even fall asleep with his head in the manger. If taken out he will walk as though intoxicated. The pulse will be below normal, and the respiration will be slower than usual. The bowels are constipated, and very little urine is passed. As the disease progresses the pupils become dilated, the eyes bloodshot, and the eyelids partly closed. In the second stage the horse behaves as though he were mad. He becomes painfully excited, and throws himself about, seemingly regardless of anything, and while the paroxysms last it is dangerous to approach him. Intervals of exhaustion will probably occur, during which he will sweat freely, and stand with his head in a corner as though trying to hide himself.

The treatment of staggers must be directed to clearing out the bowels, for until this is effected no relief can be expected. For this purpose six drachms of aloes, half an ounce of carbonate of soda, and half a wineglassful of brandy, in half a pint of warm water, should be promptly administered, and frequent enemata of tepid water, not exceeding two quarts at a time, should be given. Meantime a veterinary surgeon should be sent for.

CHAPTER IX.

BURSAL ENLARGEMENTS.

It is usual to classify all swellings which have their origin in injuries resulting in distensions of the bursæ due to an increased secretion of synovia, commonly called joint-oil, under the above heading.

The true joints, some ligaments, and parts of all tendons are enclosed by sheaths, or bursæ, which are lined by a membrane called the synovial membrane. This secretes the joint-oil. Any injury to the joints arising from overwork, sprains, &c., excites the synovial membrane to secrete more than the normal quantity of fluid; consequently the sheaths or bursæ become distended, and we get the enlargements, to which distinctive names are applied according to where they appear.

BOG SPAVIN is the name given to the trouble when it appears in the region of the hock joint, the front and inner part of which will be distinctly puffy both to the eye and to the touch. It may or may not cause lameness, according to its origin. If it does, chronic inflammation is to be suspected, which is, of course, serious.

THOROUGHPIN appears in front of the point of the hock, above and in rear of the joint, and may exist in conjunction with bog spavin, in which event it is usually, not invariably, but the overflow, as it were, of the fluid from the front part of the hock. The true thoroughpin arises from injury to the large tendon, known as the great extensor pedis tendon. If the swelling is visible on one side of the leg only, pressure upon it will result in its appearing on the other side; but it is to be seen more frequently on both sides.

WINDGALLS is the name which distinguishes distension of the bursa in the region of the fetlock joint, the result, as a rule, of overwork.

As no specific name is given to the enlargement of the bursæ of other joints, though such a thing is, of course, quite possible, it may be inferred that the complaint is unusual except as above indicated, namely, in the hocks and the fetlocks.

TREATMENT.—The treatment of bursal enlargements, which, when all is said and done, are but the indication of trouble either in the joints, the tendons, or the ligaments, or even of their sheaths, will entirely depend upon whether or not lameness is coincident; if it is, there will be other symptoms present besides the mere puffiness, such, for instance, as abnormal heat, when a sprain may be suspected, and the treatment will

be directed to the cure thereof (see Sprains), and with the removal of the exciting cause the excess of fluid will disappear. But where there is no lameness the enlargement is mostly objectionable as an eyesore, and such cases are usually the result of overwork rather than of sudden injury. The treatment must be directed to stimulating absorption, both by friction and pressure, or even by mild blisters. It must, however, be admitted that a permanent cure is rarely effected, and the enlargements are almost sure to reappear on the animal being again subjected to the inciting cause.

CHAPTER X.

LAMENESS.

It is obvious that to be able to detect the cause and seat of lameness is a most essential part of the horse-master's knowledge. The cause of lameness which results from cracked heels, treads, over-reaches, and the like is, of course, visible; but where there is no such outward sign it takes experience and practical knowledge to be able to say in which limb or limbs a horse is lame, and, after having ascertained that much, to be able to locate the exact spot where the trouble exists, i.e., if it is the foot, the fetlock, the knee, the shoulder, the hock, or the hip, &c., &c., which is affected.

There are certain well-known peculiarities which when exhibited enable one to conclude where the mischief is most likely to be found, and a brief description thereof will be of some assistance to those who are anxious to become acquainted with the subject.

The first examination for lameness should always take place in the stable and when the horse has been at rest for at least an hour. In the brief notes on laminitis and navicular disease I have indicated the manner in

which a horse stands who is suffering from either of these troubles; and in many cases of lameness, arising from other causes, the animal will stand in his stall in such a manner as to relieve the injured or diseased part, the weight being borne on the sound limbs. But of course it does not necessarily follow that if a horse is observed to be resting a limb that it is *the* one in which the trouble exists; though where lameness is suspected, or is known to be present, the limb which is not being used to aid in the support of the body is naturally the one to which attention is at once directed, and therefore the first to be examined.

The horse should next be taken from his stall, and any difficulty of movement while being backed out or turned round should be carefully noted. When outside the stable a careful comparison should be made of the parts of the suspected limb with its fellow. For instance, do the hocks correspond in size and formation? Is there any difference in the feet to be observed? Does he stand squarely? and so on. The hand should then be passed over the legs, and any difference in the warmth of any particular part, when compared with the corresponding part of the other limb, should be noted; for just as there is "no smoke without a fire," so there is no abnormal heat without trouble. The horse should next be led up and down at a walk, the examiner being careful

to observe his movements both from in front, from behind, and from both sides. If the lameness is so slight as not to be noticeable at the walk, the horse should be taken along at a slow trot, the groom allowing him just enough rope to go freely.

Now, it is easy enough to say "that horse is lame" when one sees a suffering animal hobbling along, but the experienced man knows that the nodding of the head, for instance, always occurs on the same side as the lame leg if the trouble is behind, while the reverse applies if it is in front. He will note also if the horse, as he is trotted towards him, dwells longer on one fore foot than the other (though the difference be but momentary), and for a certainty down will go his head as that foot reaches the ground, proving that it is in the other leg he is suffering. In cases of severe lameness in one of the fore legs, the pain of contact with the ground will frequently cause the animal to throw his head up beyond the normal level as the diseased or injured member comes down, and the corresponding nod will be accentuated.

The examiner next observes the horse's movement from behind, and if the action of the hips exhibits no difference he will be confirmed in arriving at the decision that the trouble is in front, for rarely, if ever, does lameness in the fore legs affect the action of the hips. But supposing the lameness exists in one of the hind

legs, it probably will be observed that one hip is carried higher than the other, and if in conjunction with this the head nods as the foot on the side that is so carried comes to the ground, then the trouble will invariably be discovered on that side, either in the hock or below it, but probably the former, for the high carriage of the hip is one of the peculiarities of hock lameness. Another point to be noticed is if the horse goes on straight, or trots, much as a dog does, with a slanting of the body. The slant will usually be from the side on which the trouble exists, as though the animal were trying to get away from the pain. This peculiarity is most noticeable when the trouble is above the hock joint.

Viewed from the side, the examiner's attention will be more especially directed to the movements of the joints. Is there equal flexion of the hocks, the knees, and the fetlocks? and so on. Then the way the feet are put down is of importance. Any irregularity of the cadence will also convey a meaning. The rhythmic one, two, three, four, is always interfered with by lameness, though it does not follow that this alone is a sign, for many quite sound horses do not trot true.

It is not sufficient to test a horse on hard ground, such as a road, for although lameness which arises from bony deposits, such as splints, spavins, &c., is more apparent under such conditions, sprains of the ligaments and muscles are more easily detected on soft ground.

CHAPTER XI.

NURSING AND ADMINISTERING MEDICINES.

As with the human patient so with the horse, the value of sympathetic and intelligent nursing during illness goes a long way in aiding recovery. It is always wise to anticipate the possibility of the illness being of a contagious or infectious nature, and therefore the afflicted animal should be isolated. Even in cases of accidents the desirability of ensuring quiet renders this advisable. The patient will have a better chance in a loose box than if he is kept tied up in a stall. The question of providing extra warmth by means of clothing, flannel bandages on the legs, &c., will, especially if the complaint is of a debilitating character, have to be considered, and if, despite the bandages, the legs are found to be cold, the bandages should be removed and the extremities well rubbed with the hands until warmth is restored, when they must be replaced.

In pulmonary troubles care must be taken to keep the temperature of the box as equable as possible; at the same time nothing must be done which would interfere

with perfect ventilation, for fresh air is a most important consideration. though the exclusion of draughts must not be overlooked. General cleanliness, and the liberal use of disinfectants, becomes more important than ever. Grooming must be reduced to a minimum; indeed, while the illness is at its height it should be restricted to sponging the eyes, nose, and dock with tepid water, to which a small quantity of some suitable disinfectant has been added, morning and evening, while sponging the forehead with vinegar and water is refreshing. If the illness is likely to be prolonged the shoes may be removed, and everything calculated to improve the general comfort of the patient should be done. Diet will, of course, have to be regulated according to the disease, but it is always advisable to stop the corn at the outset, its place being taken by nourishing food of a laxative nature, such as bran or linseed mash. Green meat, of which good grass or lucerne is most appreciated, carrots, parsnips, boiled potatoes, liberally sprinkled with salt, are among the things which will tempt the invalid to eat. Boiled crushed corn is frequently prescribed. It should be cooked to the consistency of porridge, and with enough salt to make it palatable. Milk sweetened with sugar is often acceptable, and in debilitating fevers a couple of beaten-up eggs three or four times a day are excellent

as a pick-me-up. Alcohol in the form of a quart of stout or ale has good results in convalescence; even a half a bottle of port once a day is of the utmost value.

A sick horse will frequently accept food from his master's hand when he would refuse to eat from the manger or a pail. As a general rule it is better to use a pail in the temporary hospital, for under no circumstances should uneaten food be allowed to remain before the patient. Except in certain diseases, the animal should be allowed as much fresh water as he fancies. In winter the chill should be taken off it.

HAY-TEA.—A refreshing drink is made by filling a pail, which has previously been warmed, with choice hay. Pour on it as much boiling water as the pail will hold, and cover it with a clean sack or blanket. As soon as it is cool the contents can be strained and given to the horse.

Causing the horse to inhale the steam from scalded hay often affords relief in bronchial troubles, especially when a few drops of oil of turpentine has been sprinkled on it.

LINSEED TEA is made by boiling a pound of the linseed in half a gallon or more of water until the seeds become quite soft. When cooked, the concoction is sufficient to make three drinks of half a gallon each by the simple process of adding the necessary quantity of

hot water, or, without the extra water, it may be given as a mash when cool enough.

A BRAN AND LINSEED MASH can be made by cooking a pound of linseed as directed above, so that you have two quarts of the emulsion. Remove it from the fire and add two pounds of bran and one ounce of salt. Stir well and cover up until cool, when it is ready for use.

OATMEAL GRUEL is made by putting a pound of meal and an ounce of salt into a gallon of cold water. Allow it to come to boiling point, stirring the contents, and then to simmer for about half an hour.

A BRAN MASH is made by placing four double-handfuls of bran in a pail; add one ounce of salt. Pour on the contents about a quart of boiling water; mix well, cover, and allow to stand until sufficiently cool.

ADMINISTERING MEDICINE.

Liquid medicine is best administered in a drenching tin, but a large hock or soda water bottle is a good substitute. The horse's head must be raised fairly high, and the best way to do this is by means of a "figure-of-eight" noose, one end of which is placed in the animal's mouth, while the prong of a stable fork is passed through the other, and so the head can be raised by an assistant to the required height. Holding up one of the

fore legs will help to prevent the horse resisting. But a twitch is often necessary if the horse is very restive, and one can be made as follows: Get a broom handle; cut it down to about three feet long. Bore a hole through it about two inches from one end, and through this hole loop some stout, strong cord, such as window-blind cord. The loop should be about six inches long when stretched out. The twitch is applied to the upper lip in this way: Pass the loop over the second, third, and fourth fingers and thumb of the left hand, allowing the handle to dangle. Grasp the upper lip or nose with the same hand, and let the noose or loop slide off your hand on to the lip, and while still holding the lip twist the handle rapidly with the right hand until the lip is securely gripped by the noose, and the horse is practically at your mercy. If he budges give the handle a further twist or two. Now raise his head by simply forcing it up with the aid of the handle to the required height. Your assistant now mounts a chair on the left (near) side of the horse's head (never in front), places the neck of the tin or bottle in the interdental space, and allows the medicine to flow gently into the animal's throat. On the least sign of coughing lower the head at once. The horse must be soothed as much as possible throughout the procedure by the voice and patting.

A ball is given by the operator standing on the off side, and taking hold of the tongue in right hand and gently withdrawing it. Transfer it to the left hand, and take the ball between the first, second, and third fingers of the right hand, formed as a triangular prong or forceps, the first and third fingers beneath and the second on top. The thumb and little finger tips should meet beneath, so that the whole hand may occupy as little space as possible. Press upon the lower jaw with the second finger of the left hand, and pass the right hand as straight and as far into the mouth as is necessary to leave the ball at the back of the tongue and near the gullet. This must be done coolly and quickly. Withdraw the hand, release the tongue, and close the mouth. The action of the tongue going back to its place carries the ball into the gullet, and it can be seen passing down the throat.

Powders, Epsom salts, and the like can be given either in a mash or in the drinking water.

An electuary may be smeared on the tongue or back (molar) teeth.

ENEMAS.—When medicine administered in the ordinary way has failed to act, or when it is deemed expedient from the exigencies of the case, resort is had to the enema, i.e., the injection into the lower end of the bowel of some liquid substance by means of a syringe

or funnel specially made for the purpose. Enemas which are intended to remain in the bowels, such as, for instance, nutriment when the horse is too ill to feed, must, of course, be made up with as little fluid as is convenient. Six or more eggs beaten up in half a pint of brandy, or even milk, is an example of what may be done. Or if the object is, in addition, to allay pain, one ounce of laudanum, one ounce of sulphuric ether, and one quart of warm (not hot) gruel is excellent. On the other hand, if the object is to clear out the bowels, then the liquid used may be anything from one to three gallons, containing a pint of linseed or castor oil. Bear in mind that the rectum itself always should be emptied by the hand before attempting to give an enema.

POULTICES.—Except for the feet or throat, poultices are not very satisfactory agents in dealing with horse ailments, mainly because of the difficulty of fixing them; therefore, in pulmonary troubles, where in the case of the human subject a poultice would suffice, in the case of the horse mustard is generally used in the following way: Place as much mustard as is likely to be wanted in a basin, mix it with cold water until a very thin paste is formed; rub this into the sides of the chest with the palm of the hand, and allow it to remain on for about a quarter of an hour. Sponge off with warm water, dry with a soft towel, dust on a little mustard, and rug-up warm at once.

Where a hot poultice can be used it is usually made of bran or bran and linseed, and in inflammation of the feet, corns, and such like troubles where it is advisable to soften the horn, the addition of vinegar is of great assistance. Linseed is, of course, often used by itself, and is probably better than bran for abscesses, indolent sores, &c. Poultices should always be made large and thick. In poulticing a foot a bag, such as an old feed bag, should be nearly filled with the poultice and the foot placed in it. The mouth of the bag should be tied round the horse's leg, but not so tight as to check the circulation.

THE PULSE

is a most important indicator of the animal's state of health. The pulse is usually "taken" by placing the first and second fingers of the right hand a little in front of the angle of the lower jaw. There will be found an artery, and by very gentle pressure the beating or pulsation will be felt.

In the healthy adult the pulse beats from 36 to 40 per minute. 50 to 60 indicates fever, while in some diseases it may be as rapid as 120.

The "tone" of the pulse is, however, often of more value to the veterinarian in making his diagnosis than the rate, though in most instances he is guided by both.

It may be either regular, irregular, intermittent, strong, weak, hard, wiry, &c., each of which would convey a separate message to the surgeon.

THE TEMPERATURE.

is also an indicator from which much may be gathered. It is "taken" by means of an instrument called a clinical thermometer, which is the same as that used by medical men to ascertain the temperature of human patients.

In the case of the horse the bulb and about an inch of the stem of the instrument is passed into the rectum, and held by the fingers of the right hand as near the tip as possible. Some clinical thermometers are more sensitive than others, but usually about two minutes is allowed before withdrawing the instrument. The normal heat of the body of a healthy horse is 100 deg. Fahrenheit; 103 deg. indicates mild fever, 105 deg. high fever, anything over which may be regarded as very serious indeed.

RESPIRATION is best observed at the flanks. A healthy animal breathes at the rate of fourteen times a minute.

CHAPTER XII.

SOME HINTS ON RIDING.

Let us now consider that phase of horsemanship which the average man takes most interest in, viz., riding.

The exercise is a most fascinating one, and there is no art which better repays the trouble the novice is bound to undergo in acquiring it. Some men become expert much quicker than others, but there is no reason why every man should not ride tolerably well, even though he may not have commenced to learn until fairly late in life. He may never know the joys of being able to sit out a buck-jumper, or of feeling absolutely safe no matter what sort of a mount he is put upon; but he can gain sufficient confidence and knowledge to pass muster, and with the few opportunities which fall to the lot of many, that is as much as can be expected.

The day may come when the Government will awake to the fact that some proper provision should be made for teaching recruits, and it ought to be possible, at no very great expense to the public, to provide here and there in the large centres of population a school of

equitation, which would prove of considerable value as an attraction to recruits for the mounted forces, and which, properly managed, might be made entirely self-supporting.

The proper methods of mounting and dismounting can be so easily acquired that I shall not deal with them, but shall at once proceed to deal with my subject under the sub-headings of—1, The Seat ; 2, The Hands ; and 3, The Legs.

1. THE SEAT.

That part of our anatomy which it is usual to sit upon is comprised of three bones. In the saddle the weight of the body should be equally distributed between them, for if this is not done the correct poise or balance, upon which so much depends, will be rendered more difficult to attain. The first thing, therefore, to remember is to “sit square,” i.e., well down on your seat, shoulders well back, so that the chest is thrown forward and the small of the back hollowed, at the same time avoiding as much as possible anything approaching rigidity. Balance and friction (i.e., grip), with the stirrups thrown in, are the factors which together go towards giving a man a good seat on a horse. A great deal more importance must be attached to the two former than to the latter. The proper balance has first to be ac-

quired, after which attention must be paid to the improvement of the seat by the employment of as much friction as possible, and, finally, the proper use of the stirrups will aid in perfecting the rider as far as his individual ability will permit; for it is not upon any one of the means of support, but upon the intelligent employment of all, that the security of the seat depends.

With regard to balance, it is so essentially a matter of practice that there is very little to be said upon the subject. Almost everyone rides a bicycle nowadays, and the principles which apply to riding that machine apply almost equally to equitation; indeed, a cyclist ought to find but little trouble in overcoming the initial difficulties.

I stated above that rigidity is to be avoided. The average man when he finds himself upon a horse for the first time instinctively braces every muscle of his body, and resists, or, to put it plainer, works against the movements of the animal. A moment's reflection will make it apparent that this must be opposed to the very thing we are considering, and the sooner the beginner gets confidence enough to let himself go with his horse's movements the sooner he will acquire balance.

I cannot help thinking that if the preliminary lessons in equitation were restricted to placing the recruit properly in the saddle, and not allowing him to touch

the reins until his horse had been led a few times round the school, first at the walk, and, as confidence was gained, at the trot, the principles of balance would dawn upon him much sooner than under the present system.

2. THE LEGS.

No matter how perfect the balance may be, it is evident that unless friction with the saddle can also be maintained a secure seat on horseback cannot be counted upon. Of course, while gaining a knowledge of balance the recruit has been (it may be without his knowing it, though a sore place or two invariably makes the fact apparent) employing friction. But it is the proper employment of friction, or grip, which alone will enable him, in conjunction with balance, to counteract the chances of losing his seat.

Now, it stands to reason that the closer a man sits to his saddle the greater will be the amount of friction created. The whole length of the thighs from the fork to the knees should be therefore employed, as far as possible, in gripping the saddle; and it is to these parts alone that any rigidity, as the result of muscular effort, may be allowed. Do not, however, let it be imagined that I am advocating what I may call a sort of inanimate fixidity of the thighs. A certain amount of movement

there must always be, but the muscles must be kept, so to speak, under close control, in order that the greatest amount of friction may be at any moment brought into play. A well-known authority, in describing a good seat, says: "From the hips upwards movable, in order to enable the rider to vary his balance or use his weapons; from the knee downwards movable for the use of the spur and the control of the horse's hind legs, and between these two points, hip and knee, fixed for the seat." The principle is correct, but practice and consequent advancement in knowledge will reveal to what extent the grip of the thighs can be safely relaxed under normal circumstances.

The part played by the stirrups becomes, in the case of an accomplished rider, a very minor one indeed, so much so that you will often find a rough-rider quit them when he has a particularly tough job in hand. Nevertheless, I am of opinion that it is best to begin with the aid of the stirrups, and not to attempt riding without them until the seat has become fairly safe.

Of course, the stirrups are extremely useful, if not, indeed, an absolute necessity, when weapons, such as the sword or the lance, have to be used.

As to the proper length to which they should be adjusted, the general rule is that the leathers and stirrups should reach from the tip of the second finger,

placed on the bracket on which the stirrup leather is suspended, well into the armpit, the arm being fully extended. This length will be found a suitable and comfortable one for a man of average build. But my advice is to have your stirrups as long as possible consistent with comfort and a correct seat. If they are too long, "fork-riding" will result, and the heels will be up instead of down. If you have them too short, the legs become too much bent, the muscles cramped, and "stirrup riding" (i.e., an undue pressure and dependence upon the stirrups) follows. The ball of the foot should barely *rest*, as it were, upon the stirrup. This is a point which usually bothers the novice considerably, for until the instinctive contraction of the muscles of the calves of the legs and ankles is overcome, one or both of the stirrups will be occasionally lost, or else they will slip under the instep, a position which, while right enough in the hunting field, is incorrect from a military point of view, except when practising jumping, which is dealt with further on.

With regard to the legs from the knee downwards, the knee itself should, of course, grip the saddle, and should on no account be allowed to wobble about. I have heard it stated that a man should be able to ride for a considerable time with a sixpence between each knee and the saddle, and I believe it. Certainly it is a good idea to bear in mind.

The point of the knee should be turned as much towards the saddle as possible; this facilitates keeping the toes turned in, which is most desirable.

The heels should be let well down, and the calves of the legs should be close to the horse's sides, for nothing looks worse than the legs stuck outwards from the knees. It is a bad habit, and consequently an easily cultivated one.

3. THE HANDS.

Bad hands are the cause of more accidents than anything else I know of. A man may have a secure seat, he may have perfect control of his legs, but unless he has good hands his chances of coming to grief are never remote; and yet how few riding-masters pay any serious attention to this most important matter! The horse's mouth is naturally sensitive, and I have over and over again come across men with quite excellent seats who could do practically nothing with certain horses, simply because they lacked that "light and even feeling" which goes so far towards making things comfortable for the horse, and consequently for his rider.

I once owned a horse which before I bought him was regarded as a bolter, and he certainly did bolt on a few occasions after I had him, but never with me. The sole cause of his bolting was "bad hands." He was a high-couraged, almost thoroughbred animal, and so long as

his mouth was not messed about he was always under perfect control, but once begin a continuous pull on the reins, and the harder the pull the faster he went. Yet with me he never pulled an ounce. I could send him along at racing speed and stop him, in as short a distance as any horse, by a "give and take" check, and it is that "give and take" which is so essential to study and understand in everything connected with horses, but more especially in regard to hands.

In considering the hands the arms must not be disregarded; they must be kept perfectly flexible, the elbows close to the sides, the hands slightly lower than the elbows, and about six inches in front of the navel. While anything approaching rigidity must be avoided, neither the arms nor the hands should be allowed to waggle about.

The correct way to hold the reins in the hands can be easily learned in the schools or elsewhere, but what the novice, and, indeed, many men who have passed from the noviciate stage, should seek to cultivate is that "light and even feeling," that "give and take" above alluded to.

In my remarks on balance I advocated the principle of giving the recruit his first lessons without his holding the reins, and for this reason: The moment the horse begins to move, the learner forgets that the reins are

simply one of the methods of conveying the rider's wishes to his mount, and makes use of them as an extra means of hanging on. The reins should never be regarded in this light. It should be impressed upon every beginner that his balance should, and must, be maintained irrespective of the reins, and that until he can do this good hands will not be possible.

JUMPING.

No man can be considered to have a safe seat until he can sit a horse over any reasonable jump or flight of jumps which may present themselves.

Jumping a decently trained horse is not nearly such a difficult matter as it seems, and even an untrained one, if ridden at a jump by a horseman who has no fear and knows how he should ride, will in most cases get over.

The subject is one capable of great expansion, but to be brief the chief points to remember are :

1. Ease the bit reins and ride on the bridoon only.
2. Grip your saddle with your thighs.
3. Keep your legs well back and well in, but avoid using the spur.
4. The instant before the horse takes off ease your hands, and lean back without relaxing your grip of the saddle.
5. Lock straight ahead and sit square.

The object of easing the bit reins is so that the risk of a pull on the curb may be avoided. If this should happen the horse is likely to be thrown out of his stride, and he may either refuse to jump or else jump clumsily.

The saddle must, of course, be gripped as tightly as possible, or the seat will be shifted and the balance probably lost.

If the legs are not kept back they are pretty sure to get stuck out in front of the horse's shoulders, with the double result that they cannot be used to assist in controlling the horse, and when he lands the rider will probably receive a nasty jar, even if he is not shot off; moreover, the spur will probably gash the animal's arm or shoulder. If the spur is applied to a willing horse he may blunder at his jump, but of course there are times when the judicious use of it becomes necessary. The novice should never attempt it.

The horse should be ridden up to the jump at a steady canter, and with just enough feeling of his mouth to hold him together and prevent his rushing, as most animals are apt to do.

When the "take off" is reached ease the hands by simply turning the little fingers outwards, simultaneously leaning back from the hips and pressing the legs well in. A horse cannot jump well if his head is held in; an inch or two eases him sufficiently, provided the reins are at the proper length at the start.

The leaning back neutralises the impetus of the horse's action as he takes off, which otherwise has a tendency to shoot the rider over his head. Pressing the legs to his sides counteracts any inclination he may have to refuse to jump.

GENERALLY.

It should always be borne in mind that pushing a horse to his full pace is only justifiable in circumstances of real emergency. No horseman, worthy of the name, would ever think of bringing his horse in from work in an obviously exhausted and over-heated condition. The average horse can be educated to habitually move at the comfortable rate of four miles at the walk, eight at the trot, and fifteen at the gallop. The practice of dismounting when halted, and when proceeding up or down long and steep inclines, should become general. The last half mile, or so, from home should be covered in the same way, especially if the horse is hot. On such occasions slackening the girths, and raising the saddle, adds much to the comfort of the animal.

CHAPTER XIII.

VICES.

The horse is not naturally a vicious animal, and I am therefore disposed to argue that such vices as occasionally become manifest are usually the result of improper handling either in the early days of his training or subsequently. No animal is more amenable to kind but firm treatment, and it is consequently desirable that no one should be entrusted with the education of a horse who is not possessed of an even temper, a natural love of the animal, and the requisite patience, besides knowing no fear. The horse trained by such an one starts his career with everything in favour of his turning out a respectable and well-behaved member of the equine race. I do not wish to be misunderstood. Horses, like human beings, are differently constituted, both physically and mentally. It is more often than not the fault of the tutor if the pupil develops bad habits; and the same may be said of the master and the servant.

I quite admit that some horses are predisposed to vicious habits, such as biting and kicking, and it is unfortunate if animals so afflicted commence their

schooling under unfavourable auspices. Some ignorant stable lads find amusement in teasing a ticklish youngster, and many a docile but high-couraged colt acquires one or other of the vices referred to in this way. A bad-tempered groom will often abuse and ill-treat his charges until they, practically in self-defence, get into the habit of kicking or biting at anything in the shape of a man. Animals whose tempers have been soured in this fashion can rarely be completely cured, simply because their confidence in mankind is at a low ebb. I have, nevertheless, come across several cases where systematic kindness and firmness have worked wonders.

Horses have a wonderful faculty of quickly discovering whether a man is a horsemaster, and therefore a horse lover, and, of course, fearless, or a creature whose only aim is to get his work done with as little trouble to himself as possible, and who resents any that may arise by a savage blow from the brush or curry comb, or even by a kick. Such a man is usually a coward at heart, and is always expecting to be paid back, and who can blame the horse?

It follows, therefore, that a horse with a bad character for biting or kicking is not necessarily a viciously-inclined animal, and if it should be the reader's lot to get hold of such an one, which is otherwise quite suitable, it is always worth while trying the effect of kindness

both in the stable and at work. The voice has a wonderful effect. Never approach the horse without speaking soothingly to him. Fondle him. Always have a *bonne bouch* of some sort to give him. Take a turn at grooming him yourself (one of the finest exercises), and saddle and bridle him. If this treatment is continued unintermittently for a month or two the animal will be a wrong one indeed if he fails to turn over a new leaf and become, if not entirely a paragon, at least fairly reliable.

Some horses who would not lift a foot to a man have a nasty habit of lashing out when in the company of others. All cavalrymen and men who hunt know too well what a source of danger such an animal is. A horse who kicks in the ranks not infrequently is quite docile when he is not so crowded, but a horse who never loses a favourable opportunity of "rapping" at another is only fit for single harness. A considerate man would never ride him in company.

Then there are horses who indulge in kicking their stalls to bits—a frequent source of capped hocks. Mares are the principal sinners in this respect, but if an animal who has not been in the habit of it suddenly starts the trick it is as well to see if he may not be suffering from some foot or skin trouble, or even worms or other intestinal complaint. Lack of proper exercise is also a

predisposing cause. Very often a horse who will kick in this way when tied up in a stall wont do so in a loose-box.

Bolting usually has its inception in nervousness on the part of the horse and incompetence on the part of the person in charge of him at the time. Something frightens the animal, and he breaks into a gallop, which if not promptly checked becomes a mad race. A horse well mouthed as a youngster rarely becomes a confirmed bolter, simply because he is amenable to the bit; but a horse whose mouth has been spoiled, or which is naturally of a wooden description, if he is allowed to get away once will probably repeat the performance on the first available opportunity, especially if he knows that his rider is incompetent; for many a horse will bolt with a bad or indifferent horseman who wouldn't presume to do so with a good man up. The value of good hands is probably never so clearly demonstrated as in connection with a high-couraged animal with a tendency to run away. Once begin messing his mouth about and its long odds on trouble ensuing. A few soothing words, a pat on the neck, and that light and even feeling of the mouth, that give and take check which only a man possessing good hands knows how to employ, and the horse will most likely soon steady down. The rider's confidence in himself begets the confidence of his mount,

and what would in other hands have ended in a mad gallop, and perhaps a bad mishap, becomes instead a pleasant outing. However, we have to consider what is best to be done when a horse really gets out of hand—i.e., when his rider has failed to check the intention to bolt.

The first and most important thing is to keep control of yourself, for if you, too, lose your head, in a figurative sense, you are much more likely to lose your life in reality, or at least to get badly “crooked.” The next thing is, of course, to endeavour to bring your horse to a standstill, and it depends on the room you have what is the best way to proceed. If the animal goes off in a large, open space, get him on a wide circle, to the most convenient hand, and gradually diminish it until he has had enough and desists of his own accord, when, if you, too, have had as much riding as you require for the day, you can go home quietly; otherwise another fast gallop, at your dictation, will probably give the horse something to consider should he contemplate bolting with you again. But suppose the venue is in a dangerous country, where there are numerous trees, a quarry, or similar risks of coming to grief to be considered, all your efforts must be concentrated on stopping the animal as quickly as possible. There is absolutely no good in a long, dead pull on the reins. The harder you pull, the faster a

runaway will go. But a strong pull and a sudden release, repeated several times if necessary, will occasionally be successful in throwing the animal out of his stride, of which advantage should be at once taken by a fierce tug at one rein only. This may result in bringing the horse down, but that is not the most undesirable thing under the circumstances. Sawing the mouth may also be resorted to, which means rapid alternate tugs at each rein. Throwing one's self off a bolting horse is an extremely dangerous thing, and should never be done except it is apparently the lesser of two evils, such, for instance, as the close proximity of cliffs or a shop window for which the animal is heading; indeed, in the latter or similar cases it is as well to defer it until the moment before the impact. If such a contingency should arise, both stirrups should be quitted before jumping, or rather vaulting off.

A horse which is inclined to bolt should always be ridden with a running or standing martingale and a noseband fitted so as to admit two fingers between it and the nose. The former prevents him getting his head up, which, of course, nullifies the effect of the bits on the bars of the mouth (interdental space), and the latter prevents him opening his mouth and so easing the action of the bits. He should also be carefully bitted (i.e., the bits should fit properly, being neither too wide nor too

narrow for his mouth), and the bridle should be so regulated as to ensure the bits being in their proper places in the mouth. I say "bits," because such a horse should never be ridden in a single bit or without a curb, which latter should admit two fingers between it and the jaw. A curb fitted tighter than this is not nearly so effective, though some ignorant grooms think it can't be too tight, and accordingly send the horse out uncomfortable, which is enough to upset his temper. Of course, no horsemaster leaves such things to his groom, or, if he does, he is careful to look round his horse before mounting to see that everything is properly fitted.

Shying is due to nervousness at unaccustomed sights or sounds, and, in the case of older horses, to imperfect eyesight. Some horses will shy when they "get past themselves" through a too liberal supply of corn and lack of work. I am of opinion that the darkness of most stables is also a predisposing cause. It is a great mistake to beat a horse for shying, for that only adds to his nervousness. The proper course is to speak kindly to him, bringing him back, if need be, to face the object of his alarm. Encourage him to go up close to it, and so convince him that the fearsome thing was harmless. Colts who have been at grass in the vicinity of a railway get so used to trains that they never heed them, but when a youngster who has never seen such a thing before comes to the gates of a level-crossing just as a train is

passing, it is small wonder if he is terrified; but this will wear off as he becomes accustomed to the sight and noise of a train. It is the same with other things, such as motors, &c. I remember one horse I owned used to be greatly alarmed at the sight of a man wheeling a barrow or handcart. If he couldn't bolt away, he would stand and shiver all over, snorting loudly the while. I cured him in a week by the simple expedient of having his feeds of corn wheeled into and about his loose box on a barrow, making a fuss of him, of course, while it was being done, and then leaving him to eat his feed from the barrow, which he quickly learned to do. This horse had, however, no defect of eyesight, and as he was an "aged" animal (i.e., eight off) he must, I imagine, have suffered some ill-treatment with which a man and a barrow were identified in his mind. In cases where the shying arises from defective vision, it is not usually of a very serious nature, by which I mean that the animal collects himself much more quickly than does the youngster who shies at something he has never seen before. On the other hand, a horse which has become so afflicted will always be liable to shy, simply because hitherto familiar objects momentarily assume unfamiliar shapes.

But of all vices, I am inclined to regard confirmed rearing as the worst, and not altogether because I have

had a somewhat unfortunate acquaintance with it. To find your horse standing bolt upright on his hind legs, pawing the air with his fore legs, is apt to be disconcerting. There is, of course, a vast difference between the light-mouthed horse who will occasionally "get up" when a man who has no hands lays hold of him, and the brute with whom it has become a vice and who means business. The former will desist as soon as his mouth is eased; the latter intends to get rid of his rider if possible.

The way to sit a rearer is to at once ease the hands, retaining just sufficient feeling of the mouth so that you may not be taken at a disadvantage, but, of course, avoiding anything approaching a dead pull on the reins. Lean well forward; get your legs well back, and screw the spurs into his flanks. The horse will probably plunge forward (for which you must be prepared), when, before he has time to think, the application on the shoulders of a few stinging cuts from a whip is usually productive of excellent results. The moment he comes to the ground again force him to shift his hind legs by turning him on the forehand. Always be prepared for his coming right over, when your only chance is to jump clear in time.

Different methods of curing a horse of rearing have been suggested. One brutal, but I have been told (though I don't believe it) effective way was to smash a

bottle of water over the animal's head as he came up. Another is to "give him a fall" by jumping off at the psychological moment and pulling the horse over. I tried this once, and spent three weeks in bed as a result. I "cured" my horse by selling him to a cab proprietor, and I believe that or a similar way is the best method of dealing with a confirmed rearer, unless the horse is so valuable as to make it worth while handing him over to a trustworthy trainer, in the hope that he may cure him, for the job is not one which an amateur can usually successfully undertake.

From the foregoing observations it will be clear that vices almost invariably have their inception in bad usage, either from brutality or ignorance. If, therefore, it is possible to trace the history of a confirmed vice to the start, it will, as a rule, be found that the horse was asked to do something which, from lack of ability, due, perhaps, to some defect or insufficient training, he was incapable of doing, and that when he rebelled there was a fight in which the horse came off best. A good horse-master never forces a horse to do anything until he has first ascertained that the animal can do it and only refuses wilfully, and even then he will never encourage a fight unless he is absolutely sure that he, and not the horse, will win.





FOUR YEARS OFF.

Permanent corner incisors through the gums, but not developed.



FIVE YEARS

Permanent corner incisors almost developed.



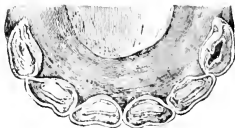
SIX YEARS

The incisors fully developed



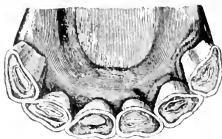
SEVEN YEARS.

The black mark has disappeared from the two centre teeth



EIGHT YEARS

The black mark has disappeared from all the teeth except the two corner ones.



NINE YEARS

The black mark has disappeared from all the teeth.

CHAPTER XIV.

THE TEETH.

1. AS A GUIDE TO AGE.

Although there are other methods of arriving at the age of a horse, the surest is by an examination of the incisors of the lower jaw, the appearance of which undergoes certain changes year by year, so that a moderate amount of experience should enable any intelligent person to tell how old a horse is, with certainty, up to nine or ten years, after which it is much more difficult.

For the sake of brevity, I do not propose to deal with the growth and development of the milk teeth and their subsequent gradual replacement by the permanent ones, but will at once proceed to indicate the changes which take place in the latter from the time the last of the milk teeth is cast or shed, which is usually when the animal is about four and a half years old.

Incidentally it may be remarked that the age of all thoroughbreds is considered to date from the 1st of January, it being the custom among breeders to arrange so that the mares foal as early in that month as possible,

and consequently the mouth of the thoroughbred animal is, as a rule, much more forward than that of the coarser bred of the same year; for the farmers and other breeders of ordinary stock quite naturally prefer their mares to foal in the summer months when pasture is plentiful.

It is at five years old that the horse gets his "full" mouth, and yet on examination it will be observed that the two corner teeth are apparently quite hollow—mere shells, in fact. Before these teeth arrive at the level of the four centre ones (the horse has, of course, twelve incisors, six in each jaw) the horse is described as "rising five;" when they are level with the others he is described as "five off." During the ensuing year the hollow is gradually filled up, and by the time the horse is six years old this process is complete, and he may be said to possess a "complete" mouth. It is from this period that we rely upon the "marks" on the tables, or biting surface, and the shape of the teeth as a guide.

Now the substance of which the "marks" is composed begins to wear away from six years old, and by the time the horse is seven it will have almost disappeared from the two centre teeth, and it will have commenced to wear in those on either side of them, until at eight only those in the corner teeth will be left. The ensuing year witnesses the disappearance of the "marks" from the corner teeth, so that by the time nine years is reached

they, too, have vanished, and the horse is commonly described as "past mark of mouth," which simply means that the black marks are no longer in evidence.

But during these years (and, indeed, on to the end of life) the shape of the teeth has also been altering, and consequently the expert does not rely solely upon the "marks" to guide him. For instance, at five years old an examination of the closed mouth will show that although all the incisors are apparently in contact, yet the corner teeth are not yet fully in wear. The tables or biting surface of each tooth (excepting the corner ones) is distinctly oval in shape, and they are becoming so.

At six it will be observed that the corner incisors of the upper jaw have become indented owing to the fact that the biting surfaces have not hitherto entirely covered those of the lower jaw, and the resultant unequal wear. The oval shape of the tables has become less elongated.

At seven the indentation of the upper corner incisors has become more pronounced, and the oval shape of these we have had under observation less distinctly so.

At eight the two centre incisors of the lower jaw have become more circular, while those on either side are distinctly oval. It is at this age that the closed mouth reveals the fact that the incisors are beginning to incline outwards, so to speak: in other words, the regular semi-

circular aspect which the mouth hitherto presented is being lost through the teeth becoming oblique instead of vertical.

At nine only the corner teeth retain the distinctly oval shape of the biting surface; but the process of change goes on until eleven years is reached, when they, too, have become quite circular. As the horse grows older the circular shape of the teeth gradually changes to a triangular one, the two centre incisors first becoming pronouncedly so, then the teeth on either side of them, and lastly (as they were to change from oval to circular) the corner teeth. Each succeeding year sees the teeth becoming more oblique, until in extreme old age those in the lower jaw are almost horizontal.

I have not hitherto mentioned the tusks which appear in the interdental space of every horse's mouth, midway between the incisors and the grinders, at about four years old, and reach full development at five and a half. They very occasionally occur in mares, and their use is not apparent. The tusk is a fang-shaped tooth, and there is this peculiarity about it: it becomes blunter and rounder every year from the time the horse reaches the age of seven, so that in old animals it will be worn down to a level with the gums. The appearance of the tusks, therefore, forms valuable corroborative evidence in estimating the age of a horse.

2. CARIES, IRREGULARITIES, &c.

Diseases of the teeth are fortunately not of common occurrence, but, owing to carelessness, the presence of small stones, and the like, in the corn does occasionally give rise to injuries, resulting in decayed teeth. It is therefore desirable to examine the teeth at intervals, and if a bad one is discovered to have it extracted. The presence of caries is usually indicated by toothache, evidence of which is dribbling, fœtid breath, and hanging the head to one side, as well as reluctance to feed and "quidding" (i.e., rejecting partly masticated food, instead of swallowing it). "Quidding" is also practised when the edges of the grinders or molar teeth have become so sharp and irregular as to wound the tongue or the cheeks. The presence of whole oats in the fæces also points to the fact that the animal is not able to use his teeth properly. By withdrawing the tongue (p. 72) the sharp edges of the teeth can be felt with the hand, and abrasions both on the cheek and the tongue itself may be observed. The services of a veterinary surgeon should be requisitioned without delay; pending his arrival, the animal should be fed on soft food.

CHAPTER XV.

STABLE MANAGEMENT.

As Yeomanry we have not very much to do with ordinary stables. The majority of the regiments, of course, go under canvas for their annual training, and consequently the horses are picketed in the open. I shall therefore dismiss ordinary stables from our consideration with these few remarks: So long as there is freedom from draught and damp you cannot have too much fresh air and light. In England, and especially in London, stables are generally kept too warm in winter, regardless of the fact that the warmer the stable the more likelihood there is of the horses catching cold. Changes in the seasons are best met by changes in the horse's clothing, and good, warm blankets are, as a rule, preferable to the shaped rugs. The mangers should be kept scrupulously clean, and the bedding should be taken out every morning, the stall or box thoroughly swept, and at least once a week flushed with plenty of water to which some well-known disinfectant has been added, and under no circumstances should the drains be allowed to become foul or choked.

As a rule, on arrival in camp the built-up rope is already in position, so the first thing to be done is to get your horse watered, and unless he is in a muck sweat the sooner the better. Before watering always loosen the girths and remove the bit. In picketing your horse be careful to see that when the horse is standing naturally the head-rope is at right angles with the built-up rope and without any slack. The heel strap should be properly fitted *above* the fetlock joint, and so that it cannot by any chance slip down over it. It should not, of course, be so tight as to interfere with the circulation. If there are not sufficient holes in the strap to enable you to fit it as directed, have more punched at once, otherwise it's odds on your horse getting cut heels. The heel-rope should have very little, if any, slack, but it should not be drawn taut. All the mischief of cut heels one sees is caused mainly through neglect of the simple precautions I have mentioned, and troop sergeants should personally see that the horses in their respective troops are at all times properly picketed. It is desirable to change the heel strap from one leg to the other.*

If your horse has come in hot don't remove the saddle until he has quite cooled. If by any chance it becomes

* In my regiment we have long since given up using the built-up rope and heel-rope, and the horses are tethered to a picketing-rope instead. Our experience has fully justified the change. The picketing-rope holds better; the horses stand much quieter, and despite the fact that their heels are free, our "casualties" in the lines have been far fewer.

imperative that you should, thoroughly dry his back and give it a good hand-rubbing.

1. GROOMING.

This should always be done in fatigue dress, and the "tools" required by each man are a curry comb, mane comb, dandy brush, body brush, sponge, hoofpick, and a stable rubber; one scraper per section is desirable.

Whenever your horse is at all hot, the first thing to be done after watering is to get your rubber and thoroughly dry the ears and throat. If you allow him to stand about without this preliminary attention you will notice that as he cools the sweat becomes cold and clammy, and this is apt to give him a chill. Feel his ears, and if they are cold pull them with your hands until the circulation has been revived. Most horses greatly appreciate this, and will hold down their heads as though to facilitate the operation. Hand-rubbing is also an excellent method of drying the throat. Neglect of this precaution may cause sore throat and cough. Some horses are what is known as "bad driers," i.e., after being to all outward appearance thoroughly dried they break out into a sweat again. This is usually owing to the animal being out of condition, but with some it is chronic, and the only way in such a case is to walk him about until he cools down naturally. Horses

which break out in this way are, of course, more liable to catch cold than others, and require more careful watching.

Now as to the ordinary process of grooming. Get your curry comb (be careful there are no jagged places in it) and go lightly over the horse's body, neck, and legs as far as the knees and hocks. This has the double effect of stimulating the skin and "raising" the dandruff. In using the curry comb for this purpose take hold of the back of it in the full of the hand, with the handle sticking out between the thumb and forefinger, and work it in a circular fashion, only raising it from the skin occasionally to knock out the dandruff. Be careful not to scrape the horse. This operation should be finished in five minutes. Now get your dandy brush and literally sweep out as much of the dandruff and other dirt as possible, beginning on the neck and finishing at the hoofs. Don't neglect the belly or the inside of the legs. Should the horse be very ticklish—and many are—during this last part of the performance, you will find it a good plan to lay firm hold of his tail with one hand. This seems to allay the irritation a great deal. If any mud has accumulated right between his legs you can best remove it by gentle rubbing with the palm of the hand.

Before replacing the dandy with the body brush give his face and head a good doing. Now take your body

brush in one hand and the curry comb by the handle in the other; stand well away from the horse, and, beginning at the neck, brush him well over, leaning heavily on the brush, and every now and then drawing it along the curry comb; this has the effect of ridding the brush of the dandruff which it accumulates. The body brush is practically the polishing brush. Again brush the head last. Now pick up your dandy once more and thoroughly brush out the mane and tail, parting the hair afresh frequently. The mane may be freely combed, but too much combing tends to spoil the tail. Now get your sponge, and with clean water sponge out the eyes, nostrils, and dock in order named. The sponge should be well rinsed after each operation, and should not be used too wet. Last of all wash his hoofs thoroughly, both the outsides and soles. All the legs should be lifted from the near side. Horses soon get used to and like their feet washed.

If a horse is very scruffy, I have found it useful to wet the body brush with a mixture of paraffin oil and water (1 part in 2), and give his skin a good dressing with it. This is also a useful wash for the mane and tail, and it has the effect of keeping flies off. On no account use undiluted paraffin. If a horse has white heels wash with a little soap and water occasionally, but never leave the heels to dry of themselves. Dry them

thoroughly with the rubber. A little oil applied to the hoofs adds greatly to a horse's appearance, and the mane and tail are improved by being brushed over with a damp brush as a finishing touch.

There is one point I wish to lay some stress upon, because Yeomanry are inclined to be too casual about it, and that is the appearance of the horse lines. I like to see uniformity in all things connected with soldiering, for there is nothing which "gives the show away" and creates a bad impression so readily as slovenliness. In fine weather the horse rugs, either when removed for the purpose of the morning grooming or any other purpose, should always be laid out flat on the ground, with the inside exposed to the air. I consider they are best placed between the horse lines (i.e., behind the horses), the fronts of the rugs facing inwards; they should be a sufficient distance from the horses to avoid the risk of their being trampled upon either by the men in the course of their grooming operations or by the horses themselves. They should be dressed by the right, and each man should place the feed bag on the ground in front of the rug, so that when the men detailed to draw the forage for each troop come along they can collect the bags without any trouble.

In showery or wet weather the rugs should be folded down the centre (inside in), and then in three, beginning at the front, and should be placed in the tents.

I have often been asked my opinion as to the advisability of keeping the rugs on in wet weather. I consider that so long as the rain has not succeeded in scaking through the rug it is much better left on. I observed in the continuous wet weather of the training season of 1903 that a day and night of heavy rain was successfully resisted by most of the rugs in use, and that though outwardly they presented the appearance of being soaked through, the side near the horse was quite dry, and the animal felt comfortable and warm enough. I am of opinion that so long as the horse's body feels warm the rugs are best kept on, but if on passing the hand between the rug and the body the horse is found to be cold, take it off at once, and in the absence of a dry rug give him some exercise to re-establish the normal warmth, and let him stand without the rug until you can get it dried. If a second and dry rug can be obtained as soon as you have got the horse warm put it on *beneath* the wet one. Always remember that whenever you find your horse cold hand-rubbing of the extremities and pulling the ears should be resorted to at once.

2. FORAGE.

The quality of the forage is a matter of the utmost importance. Half the ill horseflesh is heir to may be traced to bad food, and it is therefore necessary to know how to tell good corn and hay, &c., from bad.

The staple food is, of course, oats, and I know of nothing to which the saying "There are good and bad of all sorts" applies more aptly. Between very good and very bad oats there is such a palpable difference that the veriest novice should not be deceived; but *very* good oats rarely fall to the lot of a troop horse, so that we shall have to learn the more difficult task of being able to differentiate between bad oats and the varying degrees of middling ones.

The standard measure of oats is the bushel, and a sack should contain four bushels. A bushel of very good oats should weigh about 44 lbs.; really good oats, 42 lbs.; and what one may call good, everyday oats, 40 lbs. The average quality, however, is rarely over 38 lbs., and if the oats are clean (i.e., free from grit, lumps of hard clay, seeds, or other kinds of grain), and are otherwise of decent class, the horse wont fare badly on 38-lb. oats.

One of the first things, therefore, which you have to note is if the oats are clean. They should be quite hard, and if bitten in two should split right across; the taste should be somewhat sweet and floury; there should be practically no smell beyond that of a slight suspicion of earthiness. An open handful should feel weighty, and they should present a compact, short appearance, and be uniform in size.

New oats are usually much softer than old; the husk is far brighter, the taste more juicy, and the floury flavour more pronounced; the smell is distinctly earthy. If you strip a new oat you'll find it covered with a quantity of silver-coloured, tiny hairs. The "beard" of the husk is usually longer in new oats than in old.

Now as to defects: Dirtiness is, of course, serious, but on that account alone oats otherwise of fair quality need not be absolutely condemned, but they should be carefully sifted and screened before being used. Mustiness and mouldiness, which are but the first and last stages of decomposition, can be easily detected by the smell; oats in such a state are quite unfit for food, and should be condemned at once. Oats will sometimes start sprouting if they have been exposed to damp and slight heat. This, of course, differs a great deal from mould, which is the process of decay, but nevertheless it is a condition which is not calculated to benefit the horse.

A trick of the trade is to kiln dry damp, or soft, oats. It may be detected by the smell, taste, and appearance of the oats. The smell and the taste is best learnt by putting a few damp oats in a dry saucepan and holding it over a fire until the oats have become quite a brownish-red colour; when cold you can educate both your nose and your palate. This colour the trickster gets rid of by fumigation, but to the experienced eye a

bleached appearance always remains, and if fumigated oats are rubbed in the hands they will give off a slight smell of sulphur gas.

Oats are said to be "foxy" when as a result of being kept in bulk they generate heat, turn a distinct reddish colour, taste bitter, and smell sour. They are very injurious, and affect the kidneys in a marked degree.

Beans, peas, and maize (otherwise known as India corn or mealies) are frequently used either with or as a temporary substitute for oats. In the South African campaign maize was very largely used.

Good beans are somewhat hard, pleasant to the smell, and should be plump and round. A bushel should weigh 60 lbs. or more.

It is the ordinary field pea that is used for horses. Peas contain a large percentage of nitrogenous material.

There are two kinds of maize, the flat or American, and the round or Plate.

Beans, peas, and maize are far less susceptible to atmospheric and other causes of depreciation in quality than are oats.

Bran should be coarse—the coarser the better. When rubbed in the hands it should whiten them. It should have a pleasant smell. Bad bran is small and dusty, and has a sour, fusty smell.

HAY.—As with corn, so with hay, cleanness is one of the first points to consider. The greater the variety both of grasses and herbage of which the hay is made the better.

The best hay is that known as upland hay, and possesses a peculiar fragrance which the perfume makers have endeavoured with some success to reproduce. If you chew a little the taste is agreeable. In appearance it should be fresh and of a distinctly green, modified with yellow, colour. This latter, however, greatly depends upon the manner in which the hay was saved. It is *prima facie* evidence of the hay being good if it contains plenty of well-preserved buttercups and clover flowers. In average years hay should be saved about mid-July, when the grasses are in full flower; many farmers, however, prefer not to mow before the grasses are starting to seed.

Bad and inferior hay may contain dust and weeds, have practically no smell, and a disagreeable, pungent taste.

A truss of old hay weighs 56 lbs., and a load consists of 36 trusses or 18 cwt. New hay is not good to feed before October.

STRAW.—Wheat straw is better for bedding than oat straw, because horses are not so likely to eat it. A truss weighs 36 lbs. There are 36 trusses to the load, or 11 cwt. 2 qrs. 8 lbs.

3. FEEDING.

There are two important matters in this connection which I desire to firmly impress upon my readers: (1) Never feed a horse immediately before working him, and (2) never water a horse immediately after feeding him. A horse should have finished his feed a clear hour before he starts work; otherwise it is better, especially where fast work has to be done, to let him go out on a half-feed. You should never water after feeding, because by reason of the water having to pass through the stomach and the small intestines to reach what is known as the cœcum, its destination (which is one of the large lower intestines), there is always the risk of some of the undigested corn being washed into the small intestines, and consequently of colic or trouble of a kindred nature being started.

The stomach of the horse is, considering the size of the animal, comparatively small, a fact which points to the necessity of frequent feeding, but it is generally agreed that three times a day is quite often enough to feed to keep a horse in good health. In barracks a troop horse's ration per day consists of 10 lbs. corn, 12 lbs. hay, and 8 lbs. straw. The corn is divided into three equal feeds, the hay into two of about 4 lbs. and 8 lbs. respectively (the larger quantity being given at night), and the straw is, of course, used for bedding.

Regularity is desirable, and on no account should grooming operations be carried on during the time the horse is feeding. How would we like to be similarly treated? Only good, sound, and clean food should be given. As a rule, a horse doesn't feed well immediately he returns from an exhausting day's work, and it is an excellent plan to offer him, under such circumstances, instead of plain water, a pail of water into which a double handful or two of oatmeal has been mixed. When he has been groomed and made comfortable he will be ready for his usual meal.

At least once a week a horse should have a bran mash, and occasionally a linseed mash. If Sunday is a day of rest, then Saturday night is a favourable opportunity for giving this change.

Rock salt should always be get-at-able. A horse enjoys nothing better, and it is very necessary. Ordinary salt may be occasionally used as a substitute, or the hay or corn sprinkled with brine.

4. WATERING.

I have already stated that unless a horse is in a muck sweat he may always be led to water on his returning from work. I have always found it answer well to offer water before each meal., i.e., three times a day, as well as on coming in. If the horse doesn't want it

he'll refuse to drink. If he drinks, let him have his fill. In very cold weather it is desirable to put about a pint of boiling water into the pail to take the ice-cold off. Some grooms have a habit of drawing the water and allowing it to stand in the pails in the stables until required. This is a senseless trick.

5. CLIPPING.

It is customary to clip the coat in the early autumn, and there can be no doubt that in the case of underbred animals the practice has much to commend it, if for no other reason than because of the risk of the horse not being thoroughly dried after a hard day's work and the accompanying heavy sweating. A horse should always have an extra rug on him in the stables after he has been clipped, and especial care should be taken to prevent him standing about in the cold or wet without clothing.

CHAPTER XVI.

SADDLERY—FITTING, CLEANING, AND CARE OF.

This is a matter which the ordinary yeoman is not usually properly instructed in, and as the best groomed horse will present but a shabby-genteel sort of appearance unless his saddlery is nicely kept and properly put on, the buckles polished, and the steels free from rust (I personally like to see them bright and well burnished), I hope that what I have to say may lead to a general improvement in this direction.

First, then, with regard to the fitting of the various articles:

SADDLING.

1. The saddle should be placed in the middle of the horse's back; the front of it about the breadth of the hand behind the play of the shoulder.

2. The numnah should be raised well into the fork over the withers by putting the arm under it.

3. The girth should admit a finger between it and the horse's belly. In saddling a horse the girth must be

tightened gradually, and not with violence. It is recommended that the girths of all except young and growing horses should be fitted so as to be worn in the second or third hole from the free end of the girth strap.

4. The surcingle should lie flat over, and not tighter than the girth.

5. The breastplate should be so fitted that the upper edges of the rosette or leather is the breadth of three fingers above the sharp breast-bone. It should admit the breadth of the hand between it and the flat of the shoulder, and also between the martingale (when used) and the horse's chest.

6. Rifle Bucket.—The attachment straps are looped round the rear iron stay on the off side; both are then buckled to the bucket, and adjusted at such a length that the muzzle of the rifle is rather lower than the man's shoulder. The stay strap is passed through the surcingle at right angles to the bucket.

7. The blanket can be folded in several ways. With a horse of normal shape and condition the following method is recommended:—The blanket is folded lengthways in three equal folds, one end is then turned over 24 inches, the other is turned into the pocket formed by the folds; the blanket thus folded is placed on the horse's back with the thick part near the withers. Size when folded, 2 feet by 1 foot 8 inches; when unfolded, 5 feet

5 inches by 4 feet 8 inches. The folding of the blanket may be modified to suit horses of peculiar conformation, and to meet alteration in shape consequent upon falling away in condition, or from other causes.

The foregoing paragraphs, 5 and 6, refer to the regulation cavalry pattern saddle. The same principles, however, hold good with other patterns of saddlery.

BRIDLING.

1. The bridoon should touch the corners of the mouth, but should hang low enough not to wrinkle them.

2. The bit should be placed in the mouth so that the mouthpiece is 1 inch above the lower tusk of a horse and 2 inches above the corner tooth of a mare. This can only be laid down as a general rule, however, as so much depends on the shape and sensitiveness of the horse's mouth and on his temper.

3. The curb should be laid flat and smooth under the jaw, and should admit two fingers easily between it and the jawbone.

4. The headstall should be parallel to and behind the cheekbone.

5. The noseband should be the breadth of two fingers below the cheekbone, and should admit two fingers between it and the nose.

6. The throat lash should admit two fingers between it and the horse's jaw.

7. The bridoon rein should be of such a length that, when held by the middle, in the full of the left hand, with a light feeling of the horse's mouth, it will touch the rider's waist.

METHOD OF CARRYING ARTICLES ON THE HORSE.

Cloak or great-coat, rolled 26 inches long, behind the saddle.

Saddle blanket, under saddle.

Nose-bag (when empty), on the shoe-case, fastened to the shoe-case strap. When oats are carried the strap of the nose-bag must be fastened to the back arch of the saddle.

Mess-tin, fastened by the centre cloak-strap on the off wallet.

Shoe-case, on near side of saddle.

Hoof-picker, on shoe-case strap.

At the discretion of the commanding officer picketing gear may be carried in whole or part in the vehicles of regimental transport.

I strongly recommend my readers to master the above details so as to be able to promptly answer any questions that may be asked. The easiest and therefore the

quickest way is to get a friend who knows to stand by while you are saddling up and correct your errors, you yourself making the necessary alterations under his guidance.

It will often be found that some of the straps cannot be properly adjusted for want of sufficient holes. The remedy is, of course, to punch some more. A proper punch should be kept in every troop.

CLEANING, &c.

If the day has been a long one, or from one cause or another, such as rain or mud, the steels have become very dirty, place them in a pail of water and let them remain there until you have finished cleaning the saddlery. This will have the effect of preventing any rust from hardening and of moistening the saliva which usually adheres to the bits. To clean them, take some silver sand in the palm of your right hand and rub it thoroughly over the steels. In a very short space of time you'll find all the rust and dirt disappear. Keep at it until it does, and don't neglect the corners. Now place the steels in the water again for a few minutes to remove any sand which may have clung to them, then take them out and dry thoroughly with the stable rubber or any soft rags kept for the purpose.

If you are keen on looking smart you can spend a quarter of an hour or so burnishing; if not, smear the steels over lightly with vaseline.

In wet weather it's waste of time and energy to burnish, and the most exacting officer would hardly find fault with you for parading with your "steels in oil," but dirt or rust is unpardonable.

As to the saddlery: I have already stated that the saddle should be allowed to remain on the horse's back until he has quite cooled, but on its being removed the leather padding should be sponged over, so as to remove the sweat and dandruff. The saddle should then be placed on end to dry and air, and the numnah, or blanket, should be exposed for the same purpose, and when dry thoroughly brushed.

Meantime sponge over such parts of the "harness" as may have come in contact with the horse's body or be splashed with mud. The sponge should not be used too wet. Having removed all dirt, squeeze the sponge as dry as possible, and soap it well with some good, plain yellow or ordinary saddle soap, which should be well rubbed into the leather. The effect is to keep it pliable and soft, for once leather is permitted to get dry and hard it perishes and cracks, and becomes unreliable.

The billets, or bit pieces of the reins, and the stirrup leathers should receive particular attention.

As soon as the soap has been absorbed, polish lightly with a soft cloth or chamois leather.

Saddlery should never be stored without first receiving a thorough dressing of palm oil or dubbing. I personally prefer the former, as dubbing darkens the leather too much, for which reason it is an excellent thing to use for toning down new saddlery. Either may be purchased at any tallow-chandlers'.

Avoid drying leather by artificial heat; avoid soaking it; and, above all, avoid putting it away dirty or allowing it to become hard.

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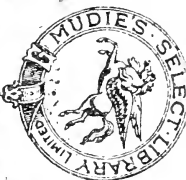
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